



OVERSEAS NEWS

Bush opens talks with Congress on tax revenues

By Peter Riddell, US Editor, in Washington

CONGRESSIONAL leaders and the Bush administration have begun discussing possible ways of raising tax revenues, but a firm agreement could still be some way off on a detailed plan to cut the federal budget deficit below the statutory target of \$100bn for fiscal 1990.

West Bank activist attacks Shamir plan

By Tony Walker in Cairo

ELECTIONS in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip must be under international supervision, a leading pro-PLO activist from the occupied territories said in Cairo yesterday.

Israel given advice on bank stake sale

By Hugh Carnegie in Jerusalem

A US consultancy has recommended that the Israeli Government dispose of its majority shareholdings in the country's big banks through a mixture of public and private placements, allowing an injection of foreign ownership but maintaining control, at least to begin with, by means of "golden shares".

The consultancy, which makes no bones about its desire to act as financial adviser in a share issue scheme, suggests in its preliminary advice an initial private placement of some 25 per cent of common stock "on a global basis", with no single investor allowed more than 2 to 3 per cent.

Argentine inflation rate rises sharply

By Gary Mead, in Buenos Aires

ARGENTINA's economic crisis sharpened at the weekend as the Government released figures showing the worst monthly inflation since August 1981. The figure of 17 per cent for March (as against 9.8 per cent in February) means that President Raúl Alfonsín's hopes of holding monthly inflation to single figures before the presidential election on May 14 have finally collapsed.

Ecuador in \$9m debt-for-nature swap

By Nancy Dunne in Washington

US conservationists have completed their sixth and largest debt-for-nature swap, intended to deliver \$9m (2.2m) to Ecuador for park acquisition and management in the Andes, Amazon and Galapagos Islands.

The swap, \$9m of Ecuadorian debt will help preserve the rain forests of western Ecuador, which are widely considered to be the richest and most threatened on Earth. The World Wildlife Fund will purchase \$5.4m of the debt package from Morgan Guaranty Trust and Bakers Trust.

The area to be protected contains an estimated population of 20,000 to 25,000 plant species, which far exceeds the 17,000 known to exist in North America.

Since August 1987, US conservationists have completed debt-for-nature swaps in Costa Rica, the Philippines, Bolivia and Ecuador.

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Africans urge debt write-offs

AFRICA'S poorest nations have called on foreign creditors to write off their debt, saying most are on the verge of economic collapse, Reuters reports from Addis Ababa.

The appeal by 28 countries was made in a declaration presented to a meeting of African economic planning and development ministers.

Hong Kong set to approve markets watchdog bill

By John Elliott in Hong Kong

LEGISLATION to set up Hong Kong's new financial markets watchdog, the Securities and Futures Commission, is expected to complete its passage through the colony's consultative procedures this week and become law on May 1.

agreed during three months of committee work and are designed to end a bitter dispute between the embryo commission and the Hong Kong Stock Exchange over alleged excessive regulation.

HK sees big increase in boatpeople immigrants

By John Elliott

THE number of Vietnamese boatpeople arriving in Hong Kong this year has more than doubled compared with the same period last year, to over 1,900. This is the highest figure for 10 years and includes nearly 400 who have arrived in the past two days.

Hong Kong wants an international agreement for forced repatriation of those who do not volunteer to go home. The first batch of 75 volunteers returned to Vietnam last month and another group of about 180 is now being prepared.

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OVERSEAS NEWS

# Moscow decree strengthens farmers' rights to land

By John Lloyd in Moscow

SOVIET farmers have regained the right, absent since the collectivisation of agriculture in the late 1920s, to pass their land on to their children.

It is made explicit in a decree from the Supreme Soviet, published yesterday, which gives a legal base to the decisions of the Communist Party central committee plenum on agricultural reforms last month.

The decree aims to stimulate an extensive movement towards lease-holding as a dominant form of ownership in the countryside - an admission that the system of state and collective farms cannot provide sufficient foodstuffs.

The 19-clause decree is clearly designed to encourage private farming as far as possible within a residual framework of state ownership. Although the suggested span of leases is between five and 50 years, leases for a longer or shorter period are not ruled out. Any individual or group

can lease land, buildings, factories, means of transport and other enterprises and the owners of the land - whether it be the state or a collective farm - cannot refuse to lease unless they have good grounds for doing so, though the property will remain, ultimately, state property.

The lease contractor will own all the produce of the land he rents. He will have the right to renew the lease at the end of it. If he does not, the first refusal of renewal passes to the members of his family or to his co-workers on the land. In the event of his death, the lease may also pass to his family or to his co-workers provided they actually work the land.

The lessee can claim compensation for any improvements made to the land or buildings and must be provided with technical and other assistance by the lessee. He has the right to sell his produce as and where he wishes and to do what he likes with

the proceeds.

Although the authorities hope that the new property relations will take off immediately, the decree is in the nature of an experiment. The results of what it permits will be studied and used to frame a more comprehensive law on leasing due to go before the new Supreme Soviet not later than July 1 1990.

The decree appears largely to satisfy those who called for freedom for farmers to take over their own plots. However, as important as the decree's terms is the willingness and ability of collective farmers to break with nearly 60 years of a system which has remoulded the peasantry into an agricultural proletariat and where rural infrastructure of every kind is poor in most areas. Many experts - Soviet as well as foreign - are sceptical that the arrangements will have much effect on food production before the middle of next decade.

# Italy moves to stamp out money laundering

By John Wyles in Rome

THE Bank of Italy has taken more steps to halt the recycling of criminal funds through the Italian banking system, in the wake of a new international initiative agreed by 12 leading industrial and financial countries.

As well as urging all Italian banks to apply the principles agreed in December by the Basle Committee for Banking Regulation and Control, Mr Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, governor of the Bank of Italy, has taken a lead in warning that the international financial system may become "polluted" by dirty funds and by calling for common action to deal with the problem inside the EC.

He told the Italian parliament's anti-Mafia committee last week that the huge profits made by organised crime from drug trafficking were threatening "to compromise civil order and the development of entire regions and states."

He said countries such as France, West Germany and Japan had not passed any national laws to combat the recycling of funds through the banking system and it was essential, given the move towards freeing all capital movements from July next year, for the EC to fix common regulatory standards to deal with the problem.

The Bank of Italy's recommendations to the banking system are in line with the Basle Committee's international guidelines and build on existing legislation to ensure the identification of individuals involved in cash transactions worth more than L20m (£8,500). It urges that the practice of close identification be extended to all "operating sectors", including those facilitating anonymity.

The central bank also issues a reminder that there are no legal limits on judicial access to banking information in Italy and urges Italian banks to take the initiative in calling in the magistrates in cases of suspected recycling. It adds that individual banks must take steps to train their staffs properly and to strengthen their internal controls on cash management.

# Stoltenberg may lose finance portfolio in Bonn reshuffle

By David Goodhart in Bonn

MR Gerhard Stoltenberg may lose his job as West German Finance Minister in the cabinet reshuffle which Mr Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, hopes will revive his flagging centre-right coalition government. Details are expected early this week.

Although Mr Stoltenberg's domestic standing has risen considerably from a low point in the middle of last year, thanks to the strength of the economy, it appears that he will have to make way for Mr Theo Waigel, chairman of the Christian Social Union, the sister party to Mr Kohl's Christian Democrats.

Mr Kohl will, however, want to reward Mr Stoltenberg's loyalty and, in the absence of a senior international financial post becoming available, he is almost certain to take another senior cabinet position.

Mr Rupert Scholz, the Defence Minister, and Mr Friedrich Zimmermann, the Interior Minister, are rumoured as likely to lose their jobs or face demotion. Possible candidates for higher office are Mr Wolfgang Schauble, head of the Chancellor's Office, and Mr Joergen Moellemann, the Education Minister. Any reshuffle will, as always, be complicated by the need to retain the balance of power between the three coalition parties.

Mr Kohl faces the impossible

task of trying to stem the loss of voters to the far-right Republican Party without alienating the centre. Mr Heiner Geissler, the liberal general secretary of the Christian Democrats who is blamed by many on the right for recent electoral losses, may swap his party job for a place in the Cabinet.

Mr Kohl will also be trying to sharpen his government's presentation and Mr Friedhelm Ost, the main government spokesman, may be replaced. A poll published yesterday, however, claims that 77 per cent of voters think that a change of faces in the Government is not enough.

# Opinions of Hitler not all negative poll shows

By David Goodhart

MORE than 25 per cent of West German voters have either a neutral or positive view of Adolf Hitler, according to a poll commissioned by Der Spiegel magazine for a special issue to mark the 100th anniversary of his birth on April 30 1889.

The poll, conducted by the Emnid Institute among 2,300 people, registered attitudes to Hitler on a scale from plus five to minus five. Thirty six per cent of respondents rated Hitler as an absolutely negative figure at minus five but 14 per cent gave him a positive register and a further 12 per cent a zero.

The poll also found that while only 3 per cent of respondents said the National Socialist period was clearly positive, 43 per cent thought it had both good and bad aspects. A further 38 per cent of those polled said that without the Second World War and murder of the Jews Hitler would have been a great German statesman.

The persistence of anti-semitic attitudes in West Germany was revealed by the poll but only 17 per cent of respondents think there is a possibility of a new Hitler.

Although respect for Hitler remained high immediately after the war it seemed to die down in the 1970s. The poll will thus increase anxiety about a resurgence of the far-right.

# Solidarity begins poll preparations

By Christopher Bobinski in Warsaw

SOLIDARITY's preparations for national elections in Poland in June began in earnest at the weekend with the establishment of a civic committee in Warsaw which will ultimately choose candidates and co-ordinate their campaign.

Solidarity supporters in the provinces were also told by the national leadership to propose candidates for acceptance by the committee and then organise a campaign.

The movement has to put up 100 candidates for the open election in the senate and 160 candidates for the 35 per cent of the seats in the sejm, the lower chamber, which the authorities have allocated to the opposition.

Despite moves to have Solidarity recognise the right of opposition groups outside the movement to have a say in the choice of candidates, the list is to be controlled by Mr Lech Walesa and his advisers.

# Soviet voters take part in second round of elections

By John Lloyd

ELECTIONS to fill a further 64 seats in the new Soviet parliament were held in the Soviet Union yesterday amid indications that the first round has strengthened the hands of popular front movements in the republics, especially in the Baltic.

The voting was confined to constituencies where three or more candidates had stood and where none succeeded in winning more than 50 per cent of the vote. Under the new electoral rules, the top two candidates ran off against each other.

In Moscow, Mr Roy Medvedev the former dissident historian, is thought likely to win his election. Mr Medvedev finished first in a field of six in the first round with 35 per cent of the vote.

Two other radical figures - Mr Yuri Chernomerkhin, an economist and advocate of radical agricultural reform, and Mr Sergei Stankovich, an historian backed by the "democratic

socialist" Moscow People's Front - are fighting again for seats in the capital and tipped to win.

In the Baltic states, candidates backed by the various pro-autonomy movements have succeeded in gaining the majority of parliamentary seats. The Lithuanian movement, Sajudis, was particularly successful with 31 of its 42 candidates elected.

The larger number of seats still to be filled - nearly 200 - will be rebalanced on May 14. In these seats, where one or two candidates stood and none managed to obtain 50 per cent of the vote, new elections will take place, usually with new candidates.

The final group of still-vacant seats are those still to be filled by the various organisations with the right to elect deputies - including the Academy of Sciences where a struggle continues to elect Dr Andrei Sakharov, the dissident and physicist.

# SHIPPING REPORT Rates fall for most classes

By Kevin Brown, Transport Correspondent

OWNERS faced renewed problems last week as the volume of tonnage fixed in the principal loading area fell sharply, followed by rates for most classes of ships.

London brokers said only 10 very large and ultra large crude carriers had been fixed in the Middle East Gulf, representing around 2.7m dead-weight tonnes. This compared with 4.25m dwt fixed in the previous week.

Around 60 VLCCs and ULCCs with an aggregate capacity of some 17m dwt are thought to be available for fixing in the Middle East Gulf this month.

Among reported fixtures, a ship of 250,000 dwt was fixed to the US Gulf at New Worldscale (NWS) 35.5 with the option of UK/Continent discharge at NWS 36 and the Mediterranean at NWS 35. A vessel of 215,000 dwt was fixed to the East at NWS 36 and a ULCC was fixed at NWS 32.99 to Brazil.

Elsewhere, several VLCCs were fixed from the North Sea, Mediterranean and West Africa but some owners were said to be keeping ships in port rather than accept single voyage fixtures providing insufficient returns to cover daily running costs.

Demand was stronger for ships of around 130,000 dwt, especially in the North Sea and West African loading areas where such tonnage was in short supply.

# Takeshita 'to explain funding from Recruit'

By Ian Rodger in Tokyo

JAPAN'S Prime Minister, Mr Noboru Takeshita, fighting for his political life, said yesterday he would publish a report today explaining various contributions totalling more than ¥100m (£450,000) that he had received from the Recruit publishing group.

Disclosure last week of huge contributions to Mr Takeshita's political support organisations from Recruit in 1986 and 1987 brought forth a chorus of calls for his resignation, not only from Opposition leaders

but also from a few people within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

Investigations into a massive campaign of influence buying in business and government circles by the Recruit group have been underway for several months.

However, Mr Takeshita reiterated yesterday that he had no intention of resigning or calling a general election. He said it was his responsibility to achieve major political reforms as soon as possible.

# WORLD ECONOMIC INDICATORS

		TRADE STATISTICS			
		Feb '89	Jan '89	Dec '88	Feb '88
UK (£bn)	exports	8,829	7,373	8,902	8,207
	imports	8,025	8,471	8,665	8,588
	balance	-2,196	-2,098	-1,763	-2,351
Japan (\$USbn)	exports	23,635	23,722	22,208	20,963
	imports	13,485	14,548	13,749	12,722
	balance	+10,149	+9,174	+8,459	+8,171
France (FFbn)	exports	32,100	34,600	35,742	34,808
	imports	33,500	37,200	31,509	29,988
	balance	-1,400	-2,600	-4,767	-5,379
US (\$bn)	exports	27,802	29,062	27,542	24,488
	imports	37,290	40,052	38,200	34,258
	balance	-9,488	-10,990	-10,658	-9,770
W. Germany (DMbn)	exports	53,260	51,060	49,710	41,490
	imports	39,660	40,130	37,620	30,590
	balance	+13,600	+10,930	+12,090	+10,900

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UK NEWS

# Detectives fly to Egypt to start al-Fayed inquiry

By Tony Walker, in Cairo

TWO Scotland Yard detectives began yesterday what promises to be difficult inquiries in Egypt into the affairs of the Egyptian-born al-Fayed brothers who are at the centre of a row over the takeover in 1985 of the House of Fraser stores group.

Detective Inspector Graham Gooch of New Scotland Yard's Company Fraud Department is leading the investigation that will focus on the extent of the al-Fayed's business interests in Egypt, and especially in Alexandria, the brothers' birthplace.

The British detectives, who arrived in Cairo on Saturday, are being assisted by the Egyptian police in their efforts to assess the substance of the al-Fayed's claims that they came

from a wealthy shipowning Alexandrian family. The brothers have insisted that they funded the House of Fraser takeover substantially from their own resources.

Mr "Tiny" Rowland, the Loro head who has fought a long campaign against the al-Fayed takeover, has repeatedly challenged these claims. The al-Fayed won control of the House of Fraser in March, 1985 with a bid of \$615m after Loro had sold them its own 29.9 per cent in the stores group.

The British policemen are engaged in a highly sensitive mission. Initially, they are being assisted by the Egyptian division of Interpol. They will also be dealing with officials of Egypt's Interior and Justice Ministries.

The investigations are expected to include interviews with business associates of the al-Fayed and possibly with family members. One of the brothers, Salah al-Fayed, lives in Alexandria.

The police inquiries will trace some of the ground covered in a Department of Trade inspectors' report, the leaking of which prompted the renewed investigations.

The Serious Fraud Office originally decided not to prosecute the Fayed brothers after it received the inspectors' report but later an inquiry was begun.

The SFO concluded that it would take at least 12 months, and more likely 18 months, before the police inquiries could be completed.

# Dockers set for strike ballot over legislation

By Charles Leadbeater, Labour Editor

DOCKERS' leaders are this morning expected to set in train a major confrontation with the Government and employers by recommending a national ballot on strike action over the Government's plans to abolish the national Dock Labour Scheme.

The Transport and General Workers' Union 25-strong national dock committee will meet at the union's central London headquarters. It is thought almost certain the committee will recommend a delegate conference be convened later this week to sanction a strike ballot over the Government's bill published on Friday which would abolish the scheme.

The scheme, set up in 1947, gives the union an important role in regulating dock work, with the aim of providing dockers with employment security.

The committee meeting will be the first test of support for a strike. It is likely that dockers' leaders from the main ports not covered by the scheme such as Felixstowe and Dover, will press for the ballots to be confined to the 9,400 dockers covered by the scheme. Employers believe the union would still get a small majority in favour of a strike if the 3,000 dockers at non-scheme ports were included.

# Survey finds companies failing to react to dearth of job-seekers UK companies face shortage of skills

By Fiona Thompson, Labour Staff

TWO out of three UK companies are already experiencing serious recruitment problems in the face of the decline in the number of school leavers, but managers are not taking the positive action needed to deal with the problem, according to a survey published today.

The survey of 2,000 employers was carried out by Blue Arrow Personnel Services. The research was aimed at identifying what action needs to be taken to combat the skill shortages expected in the mid-1990s when there will be a shortfall of over 1m school leavers entering the jobs market.

The report finds that Britain's managers are intransigent. One in three personnel

directors have difficulty convincing management to take a more flexible approach to recruitment, to consider alternative labour sources such as older workers and returning mothers.

Although many employers are willing to offer better pay and benefits to attract new staff, less than half are prepared to adapt their policies to include longer term solutions such as job sharing or part-time working.

Only 16 per cent operate job sharing, and then only for a few roles. Thirty-eight per cent said they were prepared to consider such an arrangement, but only if ready-matched job sharers were presented to them.

Part-time working was popu-

lar with 68 per cent of the responding organisations, but was usually confined to less than 10 per cent of the workforce and was not seen as a way to cope with recruitment problems.

A quarter of companies provided flexible working hours, but a third of these made such schemes available to only a small number of employees.

Only 14 per cent of employers are prepared to make specific provision for mothers with children, who represent Britain's largest untapped source of labour. Many give verbal encouragement but offer little in the way of tangible inducements, partly because time "lost" during pregnancy is seen as wasted

investment.

Only one in 10 companies offers extended leave or career break schemes, despite the low level of investment involved. And a mere 9 per cent are prepared to consider them. Just 2 per cent offer workplace nurseries and only 19 per cent are prepared to make a direct contribution to child care allowances.

Although 85 per cent of employers are prepared to consider applications from older workers, few will actively target this group and 15 per cent remain openly hostile to it.

Recruitment in a changing world - employers and the skills shortages. Blue Arrow Personnel Services, 19 Buckingham Gate, London SW1

# Satellite TV dishes installed at only one home in thirty

By Raymond Snoddy

TWO MONTHS after the launch of Mr Rupert Murdoch's Sky Television, there seems little mass excitement about the new wave of television with demand for dishes limited to one in 30 homes so far.

The modest achievements of satellite television are revealed in the first FT Satellite Monitor, a market research project

which will look at the current level of interest in satellite television receiving equipment.

Telephone interviews with a weighted sample of more than 4,000 people in Britain, carried out in February and March, found a total of six large satellite dishes of more than one metre and five of the new small 60cm dishes needed for

Astra channels such as Sky.

● In February and March 1989 Audience Selection on behalf of Kennington Research interviewed by telephone respectively 4,077 and 5,138 individuals aged 16 plus. The samples were weighted by sex, age, social class and tenure to be representative of the total population of Great Britain.

# Union leaders meet Toyota for talks

By Our Labour Editor

SENIOR officials of the AEU engineering union, are today expected to meet executives of Toyota, the Japanese car manufacturer, for talks over the company's plan to build an assembly plant and an engine factory in Europe.

Mr Jack Whyman, and Mr John Weakley, who are both AEU executive councillors, will meet senior Toyota managers for talks in Tokyo over a possible union agreement.

# Hotel group allows children at work

By John Gapper, Labour Correspondent

HOLIDAY Inn, the hotel group, is to experiment with allowing staff with school-age children to bring them to work, where they will be supervised and permitted to use hotel facilities such as swimming pools.

The hotel group, which yesterday launched a new recruitment initiative aimed at young people, is experimenting with evening supervision of employees' children as well as adding to its three nurseries.

# Hotel group allows children at work

By John Gapper, Labour Correspondent

The company intends to improve employee recruitment and retention. It currently has about 500 vacancies and last year had a staff turnover rate of 43 per cent among its 1,500 employees in 18 UK hotels.

Mr Stephen Mascilo, personnel director, said the company was making a series of initiatives to address staffing difficulties which it faced in common with other hotel and catering employers.

# Union merger plan for 1.1m workers

By Charles Leadbeater, Labour Editor

LEADERS of the AEU engineering union and the EETPU electricians union are this week expected to approve a plan to gradually amalgamate the two unions to form a 1.1m strong union for skilled workers.

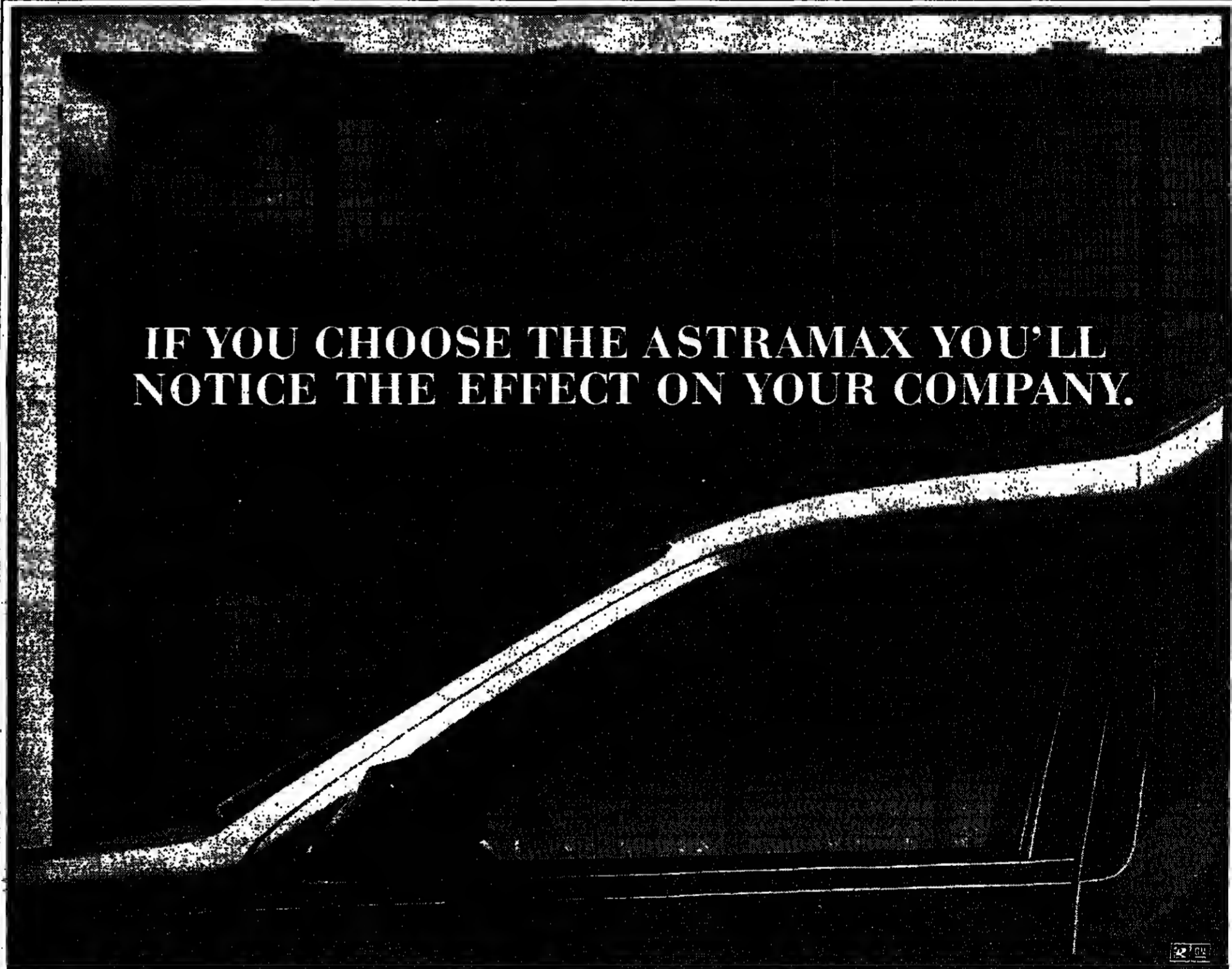
The plan has been drawn up after months of negotiations which at times threatened to break down. The merger would create a powerful right-wing union capable of representing white collar staff, multi-skilled technicians and assembly line workers.

However, it is likely to provoke renewed tensions within the Trades Union Congress, which expelled the EETPU last September after the union refused to accept two rulings over inter-union recruitment disputes. The TUC is likely to insist the union accepts the ruling in some form as a condition for being allowed to reaffiliate.

The AEU and EETPU national executives will meet separately on Tuesday to consider a paper drawn up by the two unions' general secretaries.

The paper, with proposed amendments will then be put a joint meeting of the two executives on Thursday. If it is approved as planned the paper will then be presented to the annual meeting of the AEU's policy making national committee next week.

Most of the motions on the amalgamation talks to be debated at the national committee call for the union to pull out of negotiations or lay down conditions which the EETPU would not meet. It is thought the vote on the whether to proceed with the merger could be extremely close.



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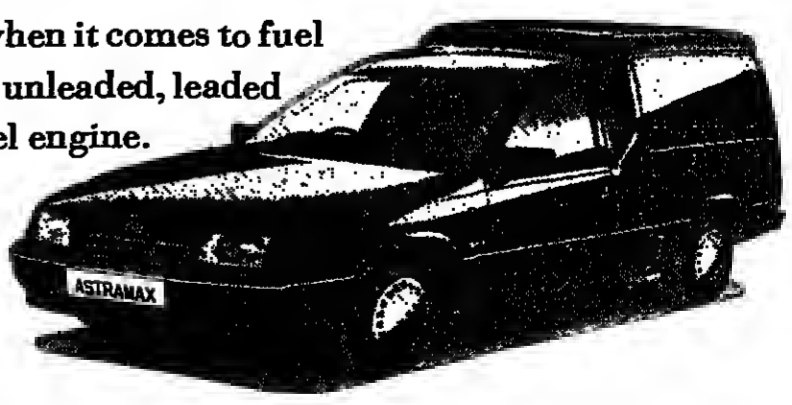
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**WORLD RAIL - SERVICE AND PROFIT**  
London, 8 May 1989

World Rail will provide a rare opportunity to hear leading railway executives, bankers, officials and equipment suppliers speak on the commercialisation of their industry. The panel will include: Stanley Crane, formerly of Consolidated Rail Corporation; Ronald Lawless, Canadian National Railways; Ross Sayers, State Rail Authority of NSW, Australia; Kevin Hyde, New Zealand Railways Corporation; Denis Tunnicliffe, London Underground Limited and Charles Hoppe, Booz,Allen & Hamilton Inc. Stanley Clinton Davis, the former EEC Commissioner for Transport will be the guest lunch speaker.

**TRANSPORT LINKS WITH THE CONTINENT - COLLABORATION TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF FUTURE GROWTH**  
London, 9 & 10 May 1989

This major FT forum on transport links with the Continent will look at the challenges for transport planners and businessmen of meeting future growth traffic demands and the effect of the Channel Tunnel, the biggest transport project in Europe.

Speakers taking part include: The Rt Hon Paul Channon, MP, Secretary of State for Transport, UK; Jean Bouley, Union Internationale des Chemins de fer, Alastair Morton, Eurotunnel; Sir Robert Reid, CBE, British Railways Board and Sir Jeffrey Sterling, CBE, The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company.

**COMMERCIAL AVIATION & AEROSPACE - TOWARDS THE YEAR 2000**  
Paris, 6 & 7 June 1989

The Financial Times will once again be arranging a Commercial Aviation & Aerospace conference at the time of the Paris Air Show. The intention is to provide a high-level forum to address a variety of issues stemming from increasing liberalisation in Europe - and elsewhere, the approach of the unified Common Market in 1992 and, with the vigorous growth in air travel demand, the problems of congested skies. The achievements and prospects of international collaboration in the industry will also be analysed, as well as the manufacturers' role in meeting the changing needs in the airliner marketplace.

Guests Ezer, International Air Transport Association (IATA), Signor Ripa di Meana, Commission of the Environment, Mr W Phillip, Eurocontrol, Brian Rowe, GE Aircraft Engines, Lou Harrington of Douglas Aircraft Co and Larry Clarkson, Boeing Commercial Airplanes are among the distinguished panel of international speakers.

All enquiries should be addressed to:  
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UK NEWS

Kinnock launches Labour campaign to rebuild image

By Philip Stephens, Political Editor

MR NEIL KINNOCK, the Labour leader, yesterday sought to set the stage for his party's re-emergence as a credible alternative government...

The Labour leadership had been buoyed by this year's strong improvement in its standing in the opinion polls, but regards the next few weeks as critical in its attempt to pull decisively ahead of the Tories...

Mr Kinnock yesterday sketched out the philosophy underlying the new policies by emphasising Labour's commitment to better education and training...

ITV heads to negotiate a network agreement

By Raymond Snoddy

BRITAIN'S ITV companies will meet this week to try to create an agreement covering the way individual companies supply programmes to each other...

The search for a new form of network agreement is seen as the most vital internal decision ITV faces. The Independent Broadcasting Authority has made clear that if a satisfactory new system is found it could be included in the new broadcasting licence that will run through the 1990s...

At least five different options will be put to senior ITV executives when they meet at Brocket Hall in Hertfordshire on Thursday...

Commercial vehicle sales rise 13.5% in March to 36,000

By Kevin Done, Motor Industry Correspondent

UK COMMERCIAL vehicle sales rose by 13.5 per cent in March to 36,188, the highest level for the month since 1978, according to figures from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders...

In the first three months of the year registrations were 12.52 per cent higher than for 1988 at 100,968.

Imports captured 40.28 per cent of the market in March, compared with 42.87 per cent a year ago. Imports were also slightly lower in the first quarter at 39.7 per cent compared with 41.62 per cent a year earlier.

Commercial vehicle sales have continued to surge in 1989 after two years in which demand has reached record levels. Registrations rose by 14.1 per cent last year to 356,785.

Table with 5 columns: Volume (Units), Volume Change (%), Share (Jan-March 89), and Share (%). Rows include Total Market, Imports, Small vans, Medium vans, and Trucks.

\*Includes buses and light four wheel drive utility vehicles. Source: Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

Unit Trust Association calls off advert plan

By Eric Short

THE Unit Trust Association has failed to gain the necessary support for a generic advertising campaign to promote the merits of equity investment through unit trusts.

The association's survey of its total membership of 120 management groups drew responses from 80 members, of which 47 favoured a campaign and 33 did not.

Mr Tony Smith, the association's chief executive, said such a trade association could proceed without the backing of about 90 per cent of its members.

The difficulties of proceeding with a campaign were highlighted by the refusal of support from some big unit trust groups, including M & G, Sava & Prosper and Allied Dunbar.

About 1.4m people invest directly in unit trusts, a figure that has risen only very slowly over the past decade.

Unit trust management groups wondered how to bring the advantages of unit trust investment to a wider public. A UTA-sponsored, nationwide campaign was suggested.

UTA's approach to members three years ago was confined to testing support for a campaign and failed to secure the required support. This time a more detailed paper set out ideas on how the campaign would run but still failed to secure required support.

Mr Paddy Linaker, M & G chief executive, said he preferred to spend his company's money on promoting M & G funds to identified markets, rather than on a blanket campaign in an unknown area.

That was echoed by Mr Paul Bateman of Sava & Prosper. Mr Bill Stuttford, chief executive of Framlington Group and departing chairman of the association, was disappointed. His successor as chairman, Mr John Fairman, is M & G deputy chairman.

Mr Brian Brown, chief executive of TSB Trust Company, has been an ardent supporter of a generic campaign for years but said it was now a dead duck, at least for the next few years.

Warburg will study strategy for Prolific

By Our Financial Staff

S. G. WARBURG, the merchant bank, has been appointed to prepare a report on the future corporate strategy of Prolific Financial Management, the privately owned investment group, which controls funds of some £1.4bn, including unit trusts worth £500m.

It is believed that the report will consider the options open to Prolific - including a possible sale to bigger groups - at a time of rapid structural change in the financial services sector.

The company was part of the Provincial Group, the Kendall-based general insurance company privately controlled by the Scott family. Prolific was demerged about a year ago but continues to be controlled by Scott family interests.

It is involved in life, pensions and other investment management business as well as unit trusts.

Thatcher will stress arms update in talks with Kohl

By Philip Stephens

A TOUGH meeting this month with Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany was foreshadowed yesterday when Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, underlined her determination that the West should modernise its nuclear arsenal.

She said she would emphasise, again and again at her planned talks with Mr Kohl, that Nato must agree to replace its ageing Lance short-range nuclear missile.

They will discuss the issues at a meeting in West Germany at the end of this month, ahead of the Nato leaders' summit in Brussels next month.

In talks last week with Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, Mrs Thatcher repeatedly emphasised her determination to replace the missile. She will seek to persuade Mr Kohl to drop opposition to an early decision to modernise.

Mr Kohl, pressed by the

opposition SPD and aware that modernisation is unpopular with voters, has said that a decision might be delayed until after federal elections next year.

Yesterday Mrs Thatcher reiterated that obsolete weapons do not deter, and that the West could not base defence policy on the Soviet Union's good intentions. Moscow had modernised weapons; the West had to follow suit.

That difference of view will strengthen expectations that what many Western officials believe will be a compromise on modernisation must wait till the full Nato summit.

President Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua is to talk with Mrs Thatcher in London next month. Whitehall said yesterday. The talks follow encouraging developments in the search for a settlement of central American conflicts.

ITV heads to negotiate a network agreement

By Raymond Snoddy

BRITAIN'S ITV companies will meet this week to try to create an agreement covering the way individual companies supply programmes to each other and determining which programmes are shown nationally.

The search for a new form of network agreement is seen as the most vital internal decision ITV faces. The Independent Broadcasting Authority has made clear that if a satisfactory new system is found it could be included in the new broadcasting licence that will run through the 1990s.

At least five different options will be put to senior ITV executives when they meet at Brocket Hall in Hertfordshire on Thursday.

They will range from an IBA suggestion that all programmes for national transmission should be commissioned by a national commissioning editor to suggestions from Thames Television that almost all programme decisions should be put to the vote, with companies having voting power in proportion to their share of advertising revenue.

In its proposals for the future of broadcasting, the Government has argued that any future networking arrangements should be left to the commercial judgment of the companies.

However, Mr George Russell, IBA chairman, who will also chair the new Independent Television Commission, has argued that there should be an obligation to form a network.

Most programmes meant for national transmission have traditionally been made by the "big five" - Thames, London Weekend Television, Granada, Yorkshire and Central - which have a guaranteed number of hours a week. The smaller regional companies have a pool of guaranteed hours.

Thames argues that only £18m of programmes a year should be guaranteed out of a total of £380m. The rest should be voted for by company programme controllers, it says.



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April's Issue This month our survey goes on the trail of the index trackers. We offer practical guidance to trustees on index funds. Our research feature analyses pooled pension fund performance. We look at the best and worst performing funds over the past decade and examine how the new providers compare with their more established competitors.

We also argue in this month's issue, the case for consultants scrapping their questionnaire-based approach to fund manager selection. Fintona answers back about the plight of the independent intermediary. In addition, the pension options open to young people waiting to join their company pension scheme are highlighted. Finally, we question the reluctance of unit trust companies to dive into the personal pensions market and outline the positive contribution they could still make.

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UK NEWS

Airport chiefs fear shortage of air capacity

A NEW runway for south-east England is not the top priority to cope with ever-growing levels of air traffic, BAA told the Civil Aviation Authority today. Sir Norman Payne, chairman of BAA, the privatised British Airways group, said in a statement that the CAA consultation paper, CAP 548, published in February, did not give a balanced view of the priorities for developing airport and airspace capacity to meet future needs.

Sir Norman said: "In order of priority those needs are airports, terminals and runways. The airports company agreed with the analysis by the authority showing that a fifth terminal at Heathrow and further development at Stansted Airport, Essex, was needed to meet forecast demand from the late 1990s.

British Airways sets up top safety post

BRITISH AIRWAYS has created a new executive board post - director of safety, security and the environment. The executive board is one level below the company's main board.

Tourist chiefs seek visitors from Japan

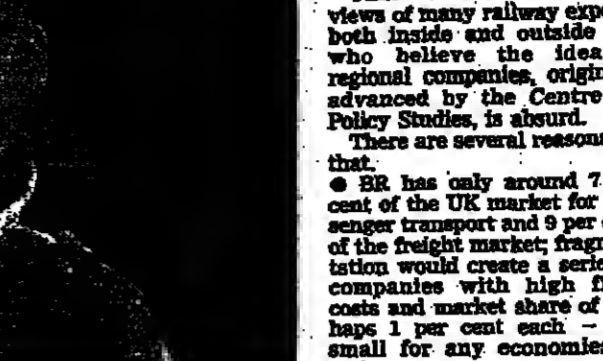
By David Churchill LONDON TOURIST chiefs are flying to Tokyo this week to try to boost the number of Japanese tourists visiting London.

The move is part of a concerted effort by London's top hotels and tourist attractions to gain a share of the growing number of Japanese likely to travel to Europe in the 1990s. Although the number of Japanese visitors to London rose by 24 per cent to 380,000 in 1988, that represented only a small proportion of the 9m overseas visitors to London that year.

BR wants to keep its train set after sell-off

Kevin Brown reports that rail executives are lobbying for a privatised single network

Perhaps the poor British Rail public relations man. Still reeling from a mauling at the hands of Kent and south London residents over the route for the high-speed link to the Channel tunnel, he now has to shape up for a much bigger battle against a still more deadly enemy.



Sir Robert Reid: carries weight in Whitehall

In his last year as chairman, declared publicly last year that he would fight for the first option, now known as BR plc. Sir Robert has been putting his view to ministers and officials for several months, in the low-profile but forceful way that has become his trademark.

perhaps not fully appreciating the likely reaction at BR's hyper-sensitive headquarters. That would accord with the views of many railway experts, both inside and outside BR, who believe the idea of regional companies, originally advanced by the Centre for Policy Studies, is absurd.

There are several reasons for that. BR has only around 7 per cent of the UK market for passenger transport and 9 per cent of the freight market; fragmentation would create a series of companies with high fixed costs and market shares of perhaps 1 per cent each, too small for any economies of scale.

Survey of MPs' voting records

By Philip Stephens, Political Editor

THE Thatcherite credentials of Conservative MPs in favouring individual choice over state intervention come under scrutiny in an analysis published today by the right-wing Adam Smith Institute.

The votes cover a range of issues - from whether the Post Office monopoly should be suspended to abortion and whether seatbelts should be compulsory - on which the institute says a judgment can be made on whether MPs favour individual choice or state intervention.

Advertisement for TSKB Türkiye Sınai Kalkınma Bankası A.Ş. (Industrial Development Bank of Turkey) featuring Japanese Yen Bonds-Series C (1989) for Yen 10,000,000,000. Guaranteed by The Republic of Turkey. Arranged by The Nikko Securities Co., Ltd. and Mitsui Bank Limited.

Managing Barclays risks

BARCLAYS BANK has appointed Mr Mark Deverall as director, risk management. He was regional director, Australasia, and succeeds Mr Ted Foster who is retiring.

Leclerc takes top post at SocGen Lease

SOCIETE GENERALE has appointed Mr Francis Leclerc as managing director of its UK leasing subsidiary SocGen Lease. Mr Leclerc was managing director of Societeges Indonesia.

Leclerc takes top post at SocGen Lease

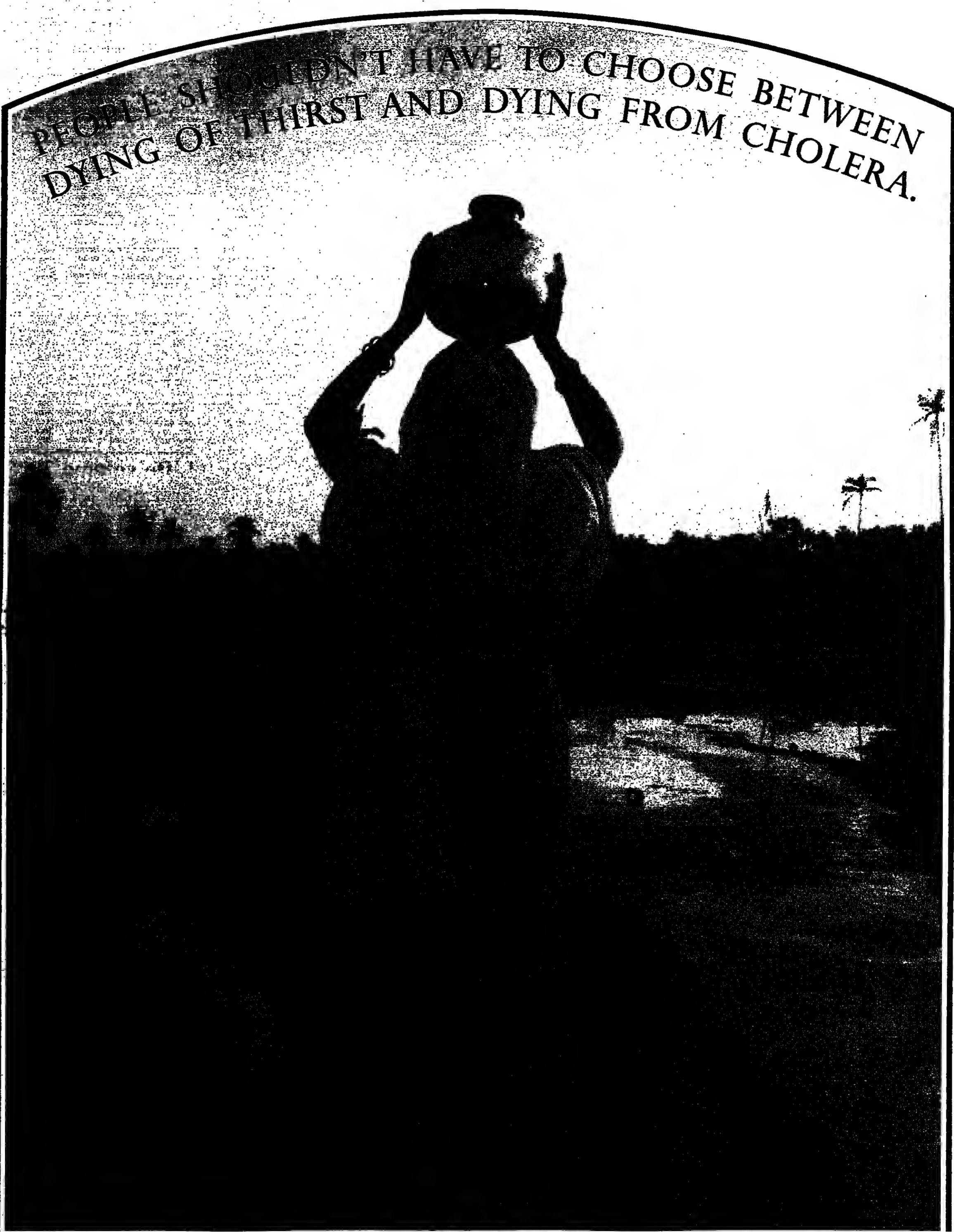
Mr Peter Smith, international communications manager, director of Vlanews, and alternative director of AAP Reuters Communications Pty, has been appointed chairman of the board of the INTERNATIONAL LIFE TELECOMMUNICATIONS USERS GROUP (INTUG) on the retirement of Mr Stephen Finch of the British Petroleum Co.

Table of SPONSORED SECURITIES with columns for Company, Price, Change, and Yield. Includes entries for Anglo Irish Bank, BSB, Barclays, etc.

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Over a million people die from cholera and typhoid every year, both diseases contracted by drinking infected water. But now ICI is working on an advanced

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water filter so fine it will be able to trap the bacteria responsible. Which should help provide the developing world with more water that gives life instead of taking it.

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*World Class*

Bryant Construction Invest in Quality Solihull Bracknell

Technology centre in Swindon

Taylor Woodrow has been awarded two contracts with a combined value of just over £22m. The largest contract, worth £17.8m, has been awarded to Taylor Woodrow Construction by Nationwide Anglia Property Services for the construction of a technology centre in Swindon.

CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS

English road repair schemes

By Andrew Taylor, Construction Correspondent

CONTRACTORS and building material suppliers have welcomed the government's plans to increase spending on motorway and trunk road repairs, but remain worried about the failure of the transport department and local authorities to spend all of the money previously earmarked for repairs.

The transport department estimates it spent £135m on motorway and trunk road repairs in the last 12 months instead of £177m as planned. It says money was diverted from repairs to meet higher than expected tender prices for building new roads.

The department spent £30m on bridge maintenance compared with £22m originally proposed. It proposes over the next 12 months to spend £240m on motorway and trunk road repairs, and £101m on bridge maintenance.

City of London offices

COSTAIN GROUP companies have been awarded contracts approaching £100m in the past month. Costain Construction has been awarded a number of contracts, which exceed £56m in total, including a £26m office development for MCEP at Finsbury Circus, London EC2.

The contract involves the construction of a nine-storey office building with a reinforced concrete frame, floors and roof slabs, carried on reinforced concrete piled foundations. The architecture is neoclassical with a portico almost the full height of the building and a central Diocletian arch containing two polished granite columns.

Costain Engineering has been awarded a £20m contract by Thames Water Authority for an extension to the Swindon sewage treatment works, which is believed to be one of the largest design and build contracts ever let by a UK water authority.

The project will involve construction of inlet works, biological treatment, sludge processing, refurbishment of existing works and installation of a control system to improve the overall efficiency of the plant's operation.

Other contracts totalling more than £30m include work for Pentagon Developments (Chatham), The Overseas Realty Corporation, Leeds City Council, a Tesco store at Redditch, Rainham Pool Developments, and Wren House, London EC4 for St Martins Property Investments.

Road maintenance programme 1988/89

Table with columns for Motorways, Junctions, and Dates. Includes entries like 'MOTORWAYS' with dates from April to November, and 'JUNCTIONS' with specific road numbers and dates.

Table with columns for Various Road Schemes and Dates. Includes entries like 'A1 BRIDGE BYPASS' and 'A15 WRETTIL BEACON' with dates from October to August.

Leisure complex in Basingstoke

ERNEST IRELAND CONSTRUCTION has started work on a £12m leisure complex at West Ham Park, Basingstoke, alongside the town's mini golf-course, lido and ice rink.

The first phase consists of a 26 lane, 10-pin bowling centre for Wessex Bowl, a multiplex cinema for Warner Brothers, and a hotel and restaurant for Whitbread.

DIARY DATES

PARLIAMENTARY

Today Commons: Electricity Bill, remaining stages. Motion on the Lord Chancellor's Salary Order. Motion on the Medicines (Fixing of Fees Relating to Medical Products for Human Use) Order.

Tuesday Commons: Opposition debate on pensions upgrading. Debate on safety in construction industry. Motion on EC document on weights and measures.

Wednesday Commons: Debate on the Fennell Report on the investigation into the King's Cross disaster.

FINANCIAL

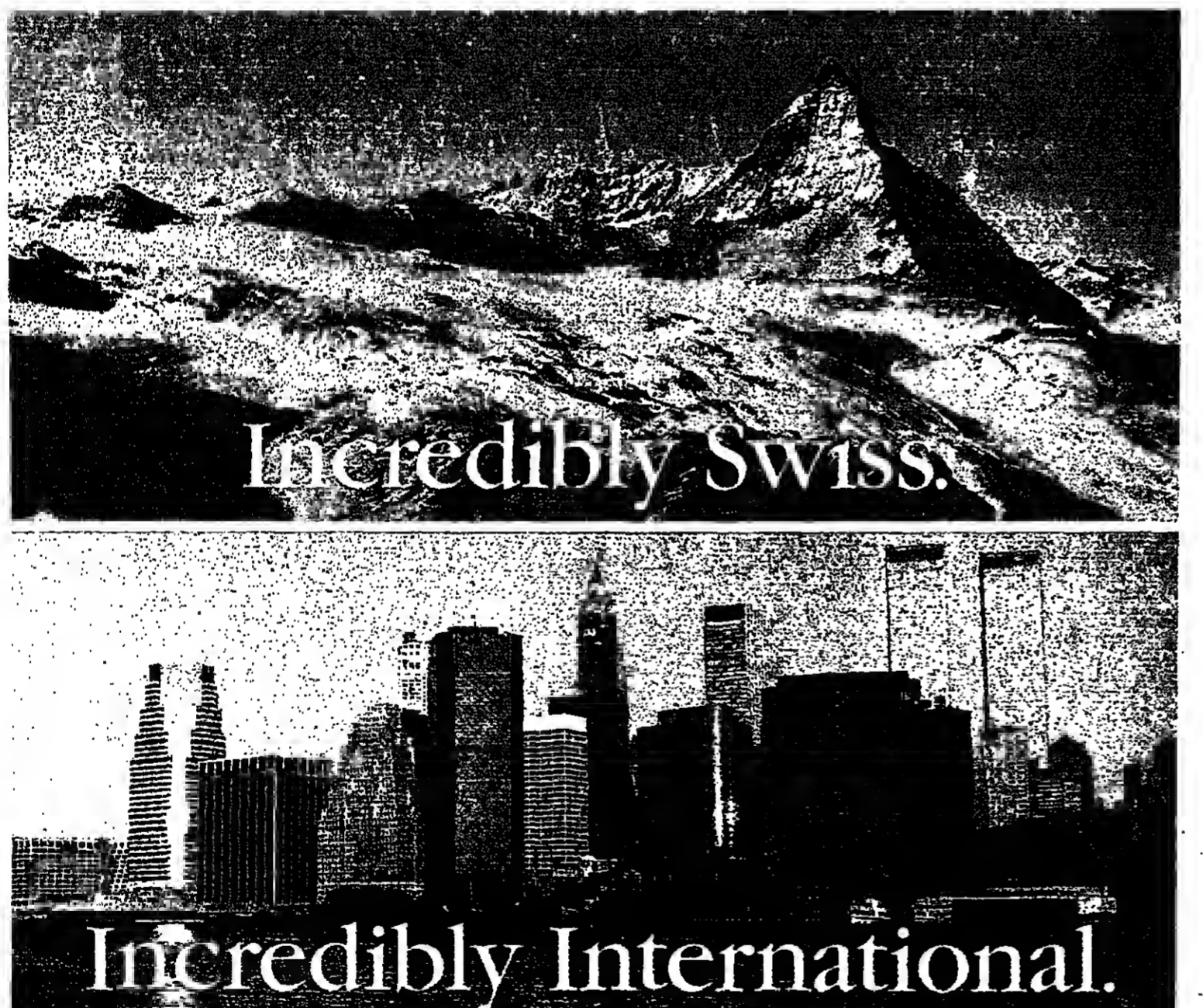
COMPANY MEETINGS TODAY: British Airways, British Petroleum, British Telecom, British Virgin Islands, British Waterways Board, British Wool, British Wool Growers' Association, British Wool Marketing Board, British Wool Producers' Association, British Wool Textiles Association, British Wool Textiles Federation, British Wool Textiles Institute, British Wool Textiles Manufacturers' Association, British Wool Textiles Merchants' Association, British Wool Textiles Wholesalers' Association, British Wool Textiles Exporters' Association, British Wool Textiles Importers' Association, British Wool Textiles Distributors' Association, British Wool Textiles Retailers' Association, British Wool Textiles Suppliers' Association, British Wool Textiles Processors' Association, British Wool Textiles Finishes' Association, British Wool Textiles Accessories' Association, British Wool Textiles Trims' Association, British Wool Textiles Labels' Association, British Wool Textiles Care Labels' Association, British Wool Textiles Instructions' Association, British Wool Textiles Warnings' Association, British Wool Textiles Directions' Association, British Wool Textiles Notices' Association, British Wool Textiles Announcements' Association, British Wool Textiles Statements' Association, British Wool Textiles Declarations' Association, British Wool Textiles Resolutions' Association, British Wool Textiles Agreements' Association, British Wool Textiles Contracts' Association, British Wool Textiles Licences' Association, British Wool Textiles Permits' Association, British Wool Textiles Certificates' Association, British Wool Textiles Licences' Association, British Wool Textiles Permits' Association, British Wool Textiles Certificates' Association.

Lords: Debate on higher education.

Schizophrenia Aftercare Bill, second reading. Question to Government on stray dogs and dog licences. Select committees: Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration: subject, reports of the Health Service Commission. Witnesses: Department of Health, Scottish Office and Welsh Office officials.

Thursday Commons: Road Traffic (Driver Licensing and Information Systems) Bill, second reading. Atomic Energy Bill, second reading. Lords: Southampton Rapid Transit Bill, second reading.

Friday Commons: Private members' bills. Lords: Debate on report on radioactive waste management. Debate on research and development in nuclear power.



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Trade Fairs and Exhibitions: UK

April 10-14 International Fire & Security Exhibition & Conference - IFSEC (01-888 4466) Olympia. April 11-13 International Trenchless Construction for Utilities Conference and Exhibition - NO DIG (0823 778111) Kensington Exhibition Centre.

April 13-15 Venture capital and corporate finance exhibition and conference (0491 410222) NEC, Birmingham. April 17-21 International Maritime Exhibition and Conference - EXPOSHIP LONDON (0206 4512) Barbican Centre.

April 23-25 Scottish Money Show (01-940 2944) Exhibition Centre, Glasgow. May 7-8 British Craft Trade Fair (0882 887163) Exhibition Centre, Harrogate.

May 16-18 Energy Exhibition (01-600 8008) NEC, Birmingham. May 18-20 Scottish Money Show (01-940 2944) Exhibition Centre, Glasgow.

Overseas Exhibitions: April 10-14 International Water Supply Exhibition (0828 778111) Berlin. April 15-23 Great April Fair (Milan 4597 298) Milan.

April 17-21 Office Equipment, Data Processing & Software Exhibition - SIOCB (01-225 5568) Paris. April 23-25 International Wine, Spirits & Equipment Exhibition - VINI-TECH-VINEKPO (01-225 5566) Bordeaux.

Business and management conferences: April 12 Oracle Business Information: Basic accounting for life offices (01-727 3503) Fortman Hotel, London. April 18-19 American Tax Institute: Euro-American mergers and acquisitions, a US tax update (01-935 7522) Fortman Hotel, London.

April 23-27 FT Conference: World electronics - Europe's role in an international industry (01-625 2822) Hotel Inter-Continental, London. April 26-27 CHI Employee Relocation Council: Managing relocation conferences and exhibition (01-379 7407) Great Hotel, Coventry.

Anyone wishing to attend any of the above events is advised to telephone the organisers to ensure that there have been no changes to the details published.

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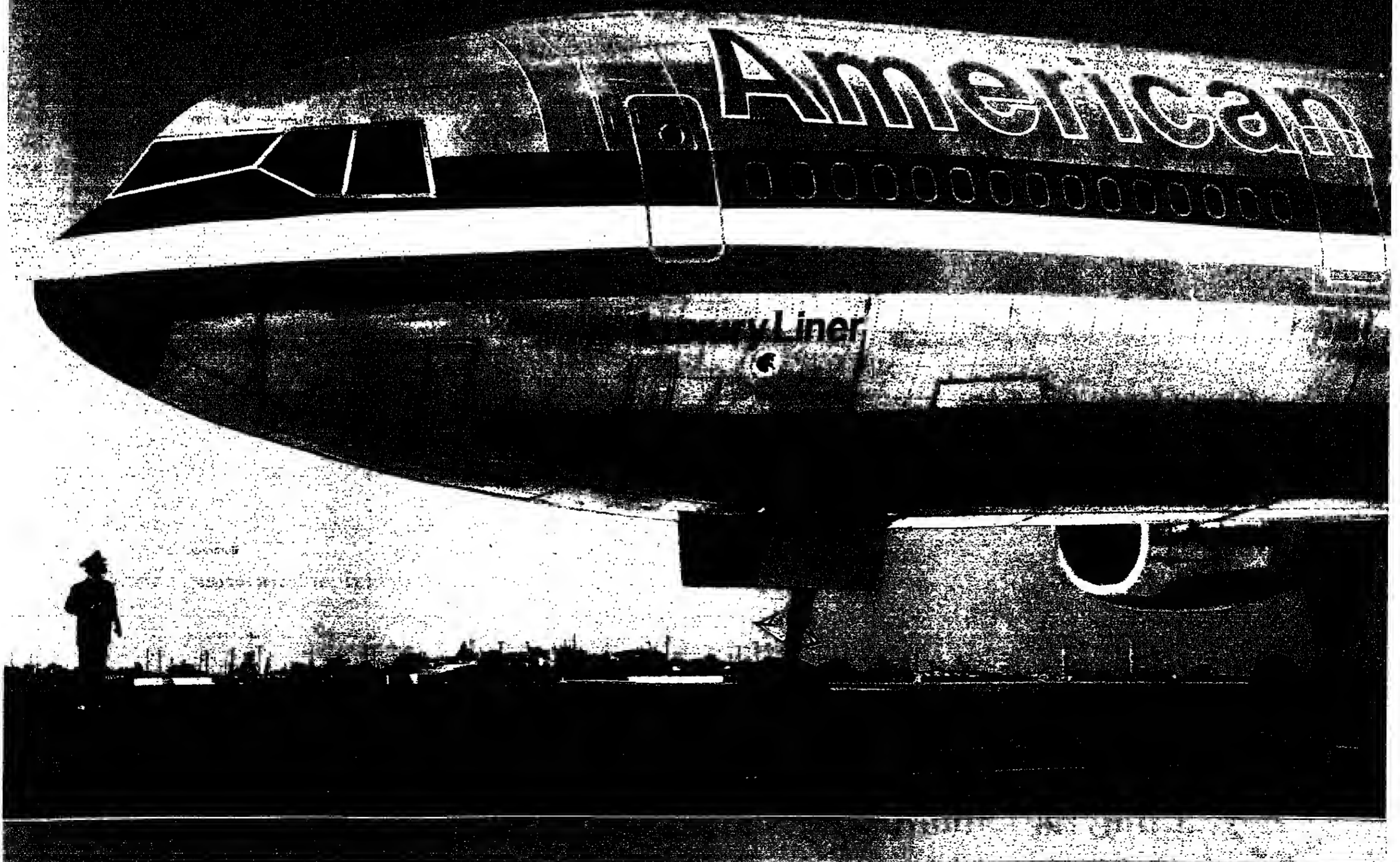
For more information and reservations, call your travel agent or nearest American Airlines office.

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As one of numerous quality control checks, he's making the 360° visual inspection required of all American Airlines' pilots before taking off. All 7,335 of them.

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\*Including America Eagle, our regional airline associate.



**1 EFFICIENCY**  
EARLY PETROL ENGINES USED OVER TWICE AS MUCH FUEL PER HORSEPOWER. MODERN ENGINES INCREASED FUEL EFFICIENCY BY USING IMPROVED ENGINE DESIGN, ALLOWING HIGHER TEMPERATURES & PRESSURES INSIDE THE CYLINDERS.

**2 DETONATION**  
BY THE 1920s, THE MORE EXTREME CONDITIONS INSIDE THE CYLINDERS WERE CAUSING SOME OF THE LESS STABLE INGREDIENTS IN THE PETROL TO DETONATE (INSTEAD OF BURNING EVENLY) AND TO DAMAGE THE ENGINES.

**3 OCTANE**  
TO PREVENT THIS, THE OCTANE OF THE PETROL HAD TO BE RAISED. OCTANE IS ACTUALLY MEASURED BY DETONATION (OR ENGINE KNOCK) - THE HIGHER THE OCTANE OF THE PETROL, THE MORE EXTREME THE CONDITIONS CAN BE BEFORE KNOCK OCCURS.

**4 LEAD**  
LEAD TETRAETHYL WAS FIRST ADDED TO PETROL IN THE 1920s TO RAISE THE OCTANE BY EFFECTIVELY 'STOPPING UP' SOME OF THE UNSTABLE INGREDIENTS. UNTIL THE 50s, NO PETROL WAS REFINED HIGHER THAN ABOUT 92 OCTANE - THE HIGHER OCTANES WERE ALL PRODUCED BY EXTRA LEAD. IN JANUARY 86, LEVELS OF LEAD IN PETROL WERE REDUCED BY TWO-THIRDS.

**5 NO LEAD**  
THE OTHER METHOD OF RAISING THE OCTANE IS TO REFINE OUT MORE OF THE UNSTABLE INGREDIENTS, SLIGHTLY REDUCING THE AMOUNT OF PETROL CREATED FROM EACH BARREL OF CRUDE OIL (AND HENCE INCREASING THE COST).

**6 ADJUSTMENT**  
IN ENGINES ORIGINALLY DESIGNED FOR LEADED PETROL, THE EXTREME TEMPERATURES & PRESSURES IN THE CYLINDERS DO HAVE TO BE REDUCED A BIT TO COMPLETELY ELIMINATE 'KNOCKING'. THIS ADJUSTMENT (RETARDING THE IGNITION) IS ALL THAT IS NEEDED TO CONVERT MOST CARS TO UNLEADED PETROL.

**7 EXHAUST GASES**  
A BIG ADVANTAGE OF UNLEADED PETROL IS THAT IT ALLOWS 'CATALYTIC CONVERTERS' TO BE FITTED TO REMOVE OTHER EXHAUST GASES. (THE CATALYSTS WOULD OTHERWISE BE NEUTRALISED BY THE LEAD.)

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**Unleaded**

ALTHOUGH THE ADJUSTMENT IN THEORY REDUCES THE ENGINE'S EFFICIENCY BY 1-2 PERCENT, IN PRACTICE IT DOES NOT NOTICEABLY IMPAIR PERFORMANCE.

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We live on a vulnerable planet. We must learn how to care for it.

During the next few weeks, many people in Britain will see the Esso Unleaded Airship taking to the air.

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**SMOG**  
CAR EXHAUSTS CAN CONTRIBUTE TO SMOGS IN CERTAIN CLIMATIC CONDITIONS. IT WAS CONCERN ABOUT SMOGS OVER LOS ANGELES & TOKYO WHICH FIRST PERSUADED AMERICA & JAPAN TO LEGISLATE FOR CLEANER EXHAUSTS IN THE MID 70s BY REQUIRING CATALYTIC CONVERTERS ON ALL NEW CARS. THESE CONVERTERS CAN ONLY BE USED ON CARS RUNNING ON UNLEADED PETROL.

IT IS NOW ESTIMATED THAT TWO-THIRDS OF THE CARS IN THE WORLD ARE RUNNING ON UNLEADED PETROL.

Today, it is increasingly available at Esso sites throughout the country.

We are planning ahead to develop the quality fuels of the future which will contribute still further towards improved environmental performance.

We intend to play our full part in improving the quality of the environment, whilst supplying the energy needs

of future generations.



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Figures quoted refer to financial year 1987/88.

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Not at all. In fact water is one of the great bargains of modern times.

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The 10 Water and Sewage Businesses of England and Wales.





Lionel Barber and Steven Butler assess the impact of the Alaskan oil spill on US environmental policy

The struggle of helpless otters and birds to survive in a muck of black oil, seen on the television screens daily in millions of American homes over the past two weeks...

Mr Bush struggles to escape the slick

49-year-old Yale and Harvard graduates who boasts regular access to Mr Bush - a fellow Yale alumnus - now finds himself in the front line.

The question is whether the rhetoric of the Bush administration matches the reality. The reaction to the Alaska oil spill is instructive.

It took Mr Bush until last Friday, 14 days after the tanker ran aground, to order federal intervention in the clean-up - despite a widespread view that Exxon's initial efforts have proved inadequate.

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standards for US car makers from 26.5 to 27.5 miles per gallon. That would put back on track a programme that had been allowed to drift under the Reagan administration.

The Detroit car makers object to stiffer fuel economy standards because, while fuel efficiency for all models has risen, Americans have been encouraged by cheap fuel prices to buy bigger cars, causing the average fuel economy for all the car manufacturers to slip.

If Mr Bush fails to take the lead, the Democrats will be ready with measures that are far more severe. But Senator Mitchell - an articulate telegraph former Federal Judge - is no wild-eyed Green politician.

Mr Bush faces a second difficult choice this month when he is expected to announce whether he will support Mr Skinner's proposal to raise the Corporate Average Fuel Economy

its influence depends as much on geography as money and organisation.

In some regions, environmental considerations are already starting to have a dramatic impact on business.

Whatever the eventual outcome, Mr Bush's political opponents will be able to make political capital out of one of his impromptu remarks during the presidential campaign last year.

The Los Angeles plan provides that, between 1994 and the year 2000, 40 per cent of passenger vehicles and 70 per cent of freight vehicles would have to use clean fuels or electricity.

1995, and burn more natural gas. Others provisions, intended to take effect as early as this year, include a ban on lighter fluid for barbecues, the outlawing of gasoline-powered lawnmowers, and the virtual elimination of free parking.

The measures - including 128 specific steps to be taken over the next five years - have still to be approved by the state Air Resources Board and the EPA. Critics say they are not technically feasible, and likely to prove far too costly.

Across the country, says Ms Carol Donaghy - editor of Oil Express, an industry newsletter - oil companies and petrol station operators face a flood of law suits from environmental groups seeking compliance with clean air legislation and limits on the amount of vapour that gasoline releases into the atmosphere.

The hasty fixing of lower gasoline vapour pressure standards in the north-west states of the US has already produced confusion. The states took unilateral action when they found themselves in violation of EPA ozone pollution standards.

The American Petroleum Institute, which represents the oil companies, is now suing New York State to have the measures rolled back. The oil companies object less to tightening of vapour standards, which can actually help profitability for many refiners.

Mr Phillips, however, cautions against predictions of too violent a reaction. He says the argument that oil is part of the country's national security is still a powerful one - particularly for those who remember the dependence on Arab oil in the 1970s.

Whatever the eventual outcome, Mr Bush's political opponents will be able to make political capital out of one of his impromptu remarks during the presidential campaign last year.

The Los Angeles plan provides that, between 1994 and the year 2000, 40 per cent of passenger vehicles and 70 per cent of freight vehicles would have to use clean fuels or electricity.

Mr Phillips, however, cautions against predictions of too violent a reaction. He says the argument that oil is part of the country's national security is still a powerful one - particularly for those who remember the dependence on Arab oil in the 1970s.

LOMBARD

The sociology of lager louts

By Michael Prowse

SOCIOLOGY - this disciplined study of the nature and development of society - has been starved of finance and denigrated throughout the 1980s.

If anything, this Prime Minister's disdain runs deeper still. In her book there is no such thing as society; its scientific study, a fortiori, must be a waste of time.

Yet a society which cannot spare the time or resources to study itself is surely in danger. This point is well (if unintentionally) illustrated by last week's Home Office report on non-metropolitan violence.

The study was hastily put together in response to the public anxiety which surfaced last summer about riots and disorder in rural Britain.

Although a shoe-string effort (six researchers did fieldwork in just three sets of paired towns), the report demolishes much conventional wisdom about so-called rural violence.

The impression created by the media that Golf GTI-driving yuppies were creating mayhem in England's green and peaceful countryside has always struck me as absurd. It turns out to have been pure invention.

The Home Office's research reveals that only about a fifth of the incidents occurred in genuinely rural areas. Most were in densely populated areas or towns.

Effective social policies will be possible only when much more is known about the causes of social problems. The nature of society is surely a subject at least as worthy of study as nuclear physics or monetary economics.

Drinking and disorder: A study of non-metropolitan violence. (HMSSO, 17.20)

UK penal policy

From Mr Jack Tulloch. Sir, The need for non-custodial rehabilitation measures for criminal offenders in the future (FT leader, April 6) seems logical and sensible.

LETTERS

Adequate air services

From Mr W.H. Davies. Sir, Mr Richard Botwood (Letters, April 3) raises an important point. Those responsible for infrastructure encompassing air-space, airport, runway and terminal capacity requirements must be fully aware of its importance.

Motivated by 'values'

From Mr Andrew Campbell. Sir, In Christopher Luzzati's article on "The price and cost of mission statements" (3 April), he recommends that a statement of values should be kept separate from a mission statement.

PEP shares in principle

From Mr Stephen Wynn. Sir, C.T. Ross ("There is no philosopher's stone of successful investment," Letters, April 1) complains about the proliferation of unit trusts, insurance and pension funds in comparison to the direct ownership of shares.

Write-offs for the world

From Mr James Skinner. Sir, Now that Mr Nicholas Brady, the US Treasury Secretary, has made debt reduction respectable and nobody doubts that huge sums are to be written off would it not be sensible to look at ways in which debt reduction can produce bonuses for everyone?

'Recovery will be a long job'

From Mr Douglas Dale. Sir, Some of us have long been aware of the "disturbing facts" contained in your leader (March 30). The Chancellor's efforts to gloss over the UK balance of payments position - the major problem of the economy - are a disgrace.

Advertisement for Cadillac. Cadillac, America's luxury car leader, is pleased to announce its exclusive U.S. delivery plan for European residents. Includes a form for requesting more information.



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FINANCIAL TIMES COMPANIES & MARKETS

Monday April 10 1989

brother MICROWAVES KNITTING MACHINES INDUSTRIAL AND DOMESTIC SEWING MACHINES

INSIDE

Bid blarney down on the farm

Farmers in the Irish midlands have seen nothing like it over the past few weeks they have been lobbied hard in their farms and fields as two of Ireland's leading agribusiness companies have battled to gain control of the local Westmeath dairy co-operative...

Hard going for software houses

Software for personal computers is becoming more complex and sophisticated - and the companies which produce the programs are making heavy weather of the changes.

Abbey gets the Eurobond habit

The sterling sector of the Eurobond market moved into the limelight last week with a £400m long-dated issue from Italy and a £200m floating-rate issue, with debt warrants attached, by Abbey National Building Society...

Full listing for Hodgson

Hodgson Holdings will today become the first funeral director with a full UK stock market listing. The group, one of three quoted funeral companies, had hoped to move from the Unlisted Securities Market last autumn...

Market Statistics

Table with 2 columns: Index Name and Value. Includes items like Euro market index, FT-100, and various stock indices.

Companies in this section

Table with 2 columns: Company Name and Value. Lists companies like AEG, AMD, and others with their respective values.

The hawk of Texas gets his wings clipped

Anatole Kaletsky explains how Frank Lorenzo came down to earth with a bump at Eastern Airlines

FROM the beginning, the public's fascination with the strike and bankruptcy at Eastern Airlines has been far greater than the business significance of America's seventh largest air carrier would have appeared to justify.

Chairman of Texas Air Corporation, which bought Eastern in 1986 against the clearly-expressed wishes of its employees. Not only would Mr Ueberroth's proposal give Eastern employees an equity stake of 30 per cent in the company...

ers who have been battered by ten years of defeat on the picket lines and in the job market. Mr Lorenzo has consistently denied being a union-busting ideologist.



Different ideas on which way Eastern Airlines should go: Frank Lorenzo (left) and Peter Ueberroth

1978 was what enabled him to do this, and then, to the unions' chagrin, forced other carriers, to follow his techniques. But Mr Lorenzo's initial successes and the other airlines' attempts to emulate him masked an important change which was occurring in the structure of the industry.

than double the 7.8 per cent wage inflation in the US economy as a whole. This contrasted sharply with the period of intense competition from 1983 to 1985, when earnings fell by 1.4 per cent in air transport, against an economy-wide increase of 6.8 per cent.

pilots unemployed in the US. With Eastern and Continental now due to be separated, and Mr Lorenzo's austere influence on the whole airline industry diminished, the fate of both companies may depend on how well they can compete in a full-service, higher cost, market.

French banks switch onto the offensive

By George Graham in Paris

FRANCE is well ahead of its European Community competitors in the volume of reports and treatises it has produced to assess the impact of the single European market.

possible to try to improve your own competitive position, in this case, by adding Touche's international equity skills to Société Générale's own in-bond and money market expertise in a FR190m (£30.2m) fund management operation.

traditional banks. These range from the specialised treasury banks like BNP or Bati to the direct marketing specialist Compagnie Bancaire, by way of super-market giants like Carrefour and Leclerc, which are both beginning to offer financial services to their customers.

home insurance, using UAP's policies and after-sales service, and UAP's agents offering car and home loans from the BNP.

from the gradual withdrawal of Chase Manhattan in Europe, buying Chase's Dutch subsidiary last year and then its Belgian bank last month, adding to already strong positions in both these markets.



Mr Marc Viénot: Improving Société Générale's competitive position within Europe

French banks have already responded to this threat. Almost all of them already sell Luxembourg-based funds to their favoured clients, more or less under the counter - legally, but without publicity.

Mr Marc Viénot, chairman of Société Générale, is not alone in reaching this conclusion. Cutting across the differences between nationalised, private and co-operative banks, there is a general impression that the leading French banks have gone on the offensive, even if their strategies are taking them in very different directions.

Mr René Thomas, chairman of Banque Nationale de Paris, the largest nationalised bank, has taken this development further. BNP already sells FR50m a year of life insurance, but to move into the non-life sector it has teamed up with Union des Assurances de Paris (UAP), the largest state insurer, in a partnership to be cemented by crossed shareholdings of between 5 and 10 per cent.

What is striking about these separate offensives is that the strategies adopted are not dependent on who controls each bank.

Mr Haberer, although controlled by the state, is much closer in his views on the links between banking and insurance to Mr Viénot than he is to Mr Thomas.

What is interesting, however, is that French banks are not, or not all, slavishly bowing to fashion. Perhaps even more importantly, they are not, or not all, waiting for the government to tell them what to do.

Economics Notebook

A battle to gain Mr Kohl's ear

EUROPEAN monetary union is moving back into the realm of high politics even before the Delors committee of central bank governors and outside experts has finalised its report on the "concrete steps" needed to achieve that elusive goal.

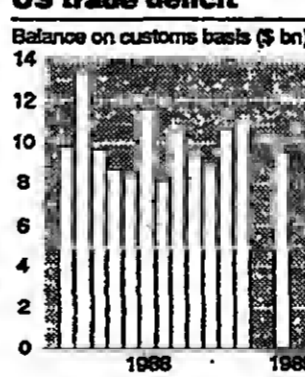
states was voted down by a majority of seven to three. In the event, Ecolin joins in the inter-governmental discussions that resulted in the Single European Act.

At the level of heads of government, there is believed to be more sympathy for institutional progress towards monetary union than among the central bankers of the Delors group. Some European monetary officials believe Portugal, Greece and Belgium could join the French-led group, bringing the number of countries in favour of institutional progress and treaty change to six.

THIS WEEK

US TRADE figures for February are likely to attract most attention this week, possibly influencing dollar trading and speculation about world interest rates.

US trade deficit



underlying annual rate unchanged at 9 per cent. A rise could add to fears of inflationary pressures in the economy. Analysts will also watch for figures on productivity and unit wage costs.

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UK COMPANY NEWS

Hodgson becomes first fully listed funeral director

By Andrew Hill

HODGSON HOLDINGS will today become the first funeral director with a full stock market listing...

preference shares with B&C Ventures, British & Commonwealth Holdings' development capital arm...

Significant progress at Try as profits jump 95%

TRY GROUP, which intends to seek a listing this month, reported pre-tax profits up 95 per cent from £2.02m to £3.95m...

Build had had good years. The year had seen a feverish market for new homes and house sales were beginning to move forward again...

Salary rises at Williams

MR NIGEL RUDD, chairman of Williams Holdings, last year saw an increase in salary from £204,000 to £403,000...

The accounts also detail Williams' significant pension fund surplus, which is now put at £71.96m.

Courtaulds pays £10m for Phoenix acquisition

By Alice Rawsthorn

COURTAULDS, the chemicals and textiles group, has expanded its performance films interests in the US by buying Gila River Products in Phoenix, Arizona for \$17.5m (£10.2m).

Gila River is a privately owned company which specialises in the coating and laminating of films for aerospace and medical applications.

Vistec will not change bid terms

By Nikki Tait

VISTEC, the USM-quoted computer services and supplies group, said that there would be no change in the terms of its offer for DDT Group...

share prices the company at £7.44m. The Apricot share offer is worth £7.87m.

DDT has already said that, from a commercial point of view, it sees more benefits from the Vistec links than from becoming an Apricot subsidiary.

Apricot, meanwhile, has now acquired certain shares over which it previously held pre-emption rights.

Dawsongroup on target with profits of £6.05m

PRE-TAX profits of £6.05m were achieved in 1988 by Dawsongroup, the truck rental and contract hire operator which joined the main market last November.

Mr Peter Dawson, chairman and managing director, said he was pleased to sustain such a high level of profit growth without erosion of the return on average capital employed, which had stayed above 21 per cent.

Earnings were 14.3p (9.2p). The first public dividend is expected to be the interim for 1989, which should be announced in September.

He said the 37 per cent increase in revenue at Dawsonrentals reflected the considerable investment in additional vehicles and expansion of the depot network.

Bilton ahead 38%

Percy Bilton, property investor and developer, increased pre-tax profits by 38 per cent from £14.56m to £20m in 1988.

Rothmans draws full Tabacofina

Rothmans International, the cigarettes and luxury products group, proposes to pay £12.525 (822m) for the 40 per cent minority in Tabacofina, its quoted Belgian subsidiary.

announced the £12,500 per share offer, which compares with the suspension price of £12,525 last Thursday and is based on a valuation by Salomon Brothers International, retained by both companies.

Breaking up the cosy club Kieran Cooke on Larry Goodman's expansion

THE relentless expansion by Larry Goodman, one of Ireland's leading entrepreneurs, into his country's agribusiness sector continues.



Larry Goodman controls 45% of Irish beef industry

Last weekend, Mr Goodman's Food Industries Group (he owns 65%) won control of Westmeath Dairy Co-op in the Irish Midlands.

As a spokesman for the Coops Society, Mr Goodman said that Westmeath had been won by Mr Goodman through the votes of so-called 'dry shareholders' - those with no milk supplies of their own and with no interest in the future of the co-op movement.

Mr Goodman has recently accumulated a 8.24% stake in Unigate, the British dairy and food concern. He has also built up a minority interest in Berford International, owner of British Sugar, the sugar beet processor which dominates the UK sugar market.

As shareholders craved into a local community hall to make their decision, Mr Goodman flew in by helicopter to explain the merits of private enterprise and the need to break up what he called 'the cosy club' of the Irish co-ops.

Others say that the Irish co-operative movement, one of the integral parts of the Irish economy since the country's independence, is now being sacrificed to private interests.

In the end, Food Industries, which has ambitions to expand into one of the leading agribusiness companies in Europe, won the day. Mr Goodman described his victory as a vote of confidence for private enterprise.

Chancery seeks banking growth

Chancery, merchant banking and financial services group, is seeking to expand its banking division with an offer to buy Petrofin for £2.5m in shares.

Chancery reported pre-tax profits of £3.06m for the six months to September 30.

BOARD MEETINGS table listing various companies and their meeting dates.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

AITKEN HOME announced that 41.7m per cent convertible cumulative redeemable preference shares (8.4 per cent of rights issue) have been taken up.

FT Share Information

The following securities were added to the Share Information Service in Saturday's edition:

MAES Funding No. 1 PLC advertisement with logo and details.

ML-GT New Pacific Equities Growth Fund, N.V. advertisement with Merrill Lynch Capital Markets logo.

DSL Bank advertisement for floating rate notes, including interest rates and terms.

Burford Holdings plc advertisement detailing share capital and listing particulars.

BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA advertisement with agenda for shareholders meeting.

QUANTUS FUND advertisement with notice of meeting and investment details.

SABRE VIII LIMITED advertisement for floating rate secured notes.

Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) advertisement for floating rate notes.

FINANCIAL TIMES STOCK INDICES table showing various market indices and their values.



INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL MARKETS

US MONEY AND CREDIT

Slowdown casts doubt on rally

THREE weeks ago, with long bond yields above 9.3 per cent, and the producer price figures revealing an annualised inflation rate of 12 per cent for the second month in a row, it was relatively easy to suggest that bonds were at least temporarily overvalued. However had the portents for the bond market might have been in the long run, they could hardly have failed to improve somewhat from that point.

Today, the bond yield is flirting with the 9 per cent mark and nobody seems to believe that the economy is in the middle of an inflationary boom. The main question being debated in the stock market, a more sensitive and accurate economic barometer than the bond market for the past two years, is not whether the economy is still overheating, but whether the current slowdown can be brought under control before it degenerates into outright recession.

Only the perennial dollar bulls in the foreign exchanges seem to believe a further monetary tightening might be necessary, desirable or even possible in the near future.

But do the signs of economic slowdown mean the bond rally which began three weeks ago has further to go? Will they provide a retrospective justification for the market's euphoria a few months ago when yields fell towards 8 per cent in response to Mr Alan Greenspan's empty promises to fight inflation?

This is unlikely. There is a growing consensus that short-term interest rates have reached a temporary peak and this seems plausible. Whether long rates can continue to move downwards below the 9 per cent mark is another matter. Indeed, the yield curve, far from becoming more steeply inverted, could flatten or even return to a conventional upward sloping pattern in the months ahead.

Inflation will remain a worry, even as the economy decelerates. The simplest evidence of this is the sudden vogue for the word "stagflation", the ugly but evocative term which has been used all too often in this column during the past nine months. Investors who fell too readily for Mr Greenspan's exaggerated rhetoric about eliminating inflation are likely to be more cautious in the current rally.

The market's innate caution is not the main reason for questioning the staying power of the current rally. Indeed, past experience suggests natural caution would be a thin reed on which to hang a bearish case. The "bond market vigilantes" who were supposed to dump their bonds and cause financial chaos at the first sign of inflationary backsliding by the Federal Reserve are still a negligible force in the market. Almost everybody seems to agree the Fed has finally done its duty in the good fight against inflation.

The rally may soon run out of steam not because of psychology but because of economic conditions. There are at least three interrelated problems. First, the economic slowdown does not look severe enough to tame inflation. Second, the Fed will probably release the brakes prematurely if and when the economy does decelerate more abruptly.

Third, and most important, there is the reason why the Fed will have to do this. What lies ahead looks like the wrong kind of economic slowdown. As things stand, the Fed's efforts to squeeze inflation out of the system are exacerbating the imbalances already threatening economic stability in the US and around the world.

An economic slowdown in the US manufacturing sector, one which undermines industrial competitiveness and threatens to enlarge the trade deficit still further, is something neither the US Congress nor the Japanese authorities will tolerate.

So far, the market has focused only on the first of these problems. There are now plenty of sceptics pointing out that the economy is still growing too strongly to slow inflation.

Car sales have weakened, but are about to be boosted again by the reintroduction of subsidised loans at 2.9 per cent or even 0 per cent. These incentives have proved extremely effective in the past in clearing Detroit's unwanted stocks. Construction and home purchases are down somewhat, but the weakness is essentially confined to the north-eastern US in what seems to be a delayed aftershock from the 1987 crash. For the country as a whole, housing activity is little changed compared with a year ago.

The National Association of Purchasing Managers has reported for the first time since 1986 that business conditions are stabilising, rather than improving further. But as Mr Ed Yardeni of Prudential Bache has pointed out, the NAPM index is a diffusion index, which measures only whether things are getting better or worse - "and for many companies, business is so good that it can't get much better."

Finally there were the ambiguous employment figures, released on Friday. The growth of payroll employment, which has become the monthly figure that everyone on Wall Street watches, seemed to have slowed substantially, from 280,000 to 180,000. However, not only a quarter of this decline was attributable to the strike at Eastern Airlines; more importantly, there was dramatic acceleration in jobs not covered by the payroll survey, predominantly self-employed service jobs.

It was this non-payroll growth that more than swallowed the increase in the labour force and pushed civilian unemployment down from 5.1 to 5.0 per cent, its lowest level since 1973. Including the armed forces, total unemployment fell to a steeper 4.2 points to 4.9 per cent. It was difficult, and probably

unwise, to interpret all this data too precisely. But, apart from signalling a moderate economic deceleration, they did seem to contain one important message - that the slowdown has been concentrated in the manufacturing sector.

Even more than the political expediency that militates against a full-scale recession in 1990, a mid-term election year that will be crucial not only to the Bush Administration but to the whole Republican Party, this problem of economic structure is likely to prove a binding constraint on monetary policy in the months ahead.

The world simply cannot afford a further outbreak of US protectionist sentiment in response to a recession that hits selectively at the manufacturing sector. Another period like the early 1980s, when tight monetary policy subdued inflation through an overvalued dollar, is almost certainly not an option.

Central bankers may not like inflation, but if confronted with a choice between inflation and protectionism, there can be little question which the Fed would choose - and even if the Fed were to hesitate, the Bank of Japan would make the choice for it.

Anatole Kaletsky

US MONEY MARKET RATES (%)

Table with 5 columns: Instrument, Last Friday, 1 week ago, 4 wks, 12-month High, 12-month Low. Includes Fed Funds (9.31), Treasury bills (8.75), and 30-day Commercial Paper (9.25).

US BOND PRICES AND YIELDS (%)

Table with 5 columns: Instrument, Last Friday, Change on week, Yield, 4 wk, 4 yr. Includes 3-year Treasury (9.4%), 5-year Treasury (9.7%), and 30-year Treasury (10.2%).

Money supply: in the week ended March 17, M1 grew \$0.2bn to \$787.7bn.

NRI TOKYO BOND INDEX

Table with 5 columns: Instrument, Average Yield, Last, 12 wk, 26 wk, 5 yr. Includes Government Bonds (4.48%), Municipal Bonds (4.77%), and Corporate Bonds (4.95%).

UK GILTS

Outlook for interest rates changes

SOME WEEKS witness a step-change in attitude towards the world. Such was last week for the gilt-edged securities market towards the outlook for UK interest rates, which are now thought due for a rise, and the economy.

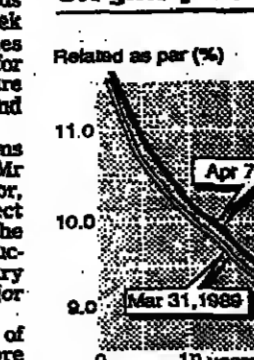
The change in expectations started with comments by Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, in Washington to the effect that he could not be sure if the tightening in policy would succeed in dousing inflationary pressures in the world's major economies.

The Governor of the Bank of England, in evidence before the Commons Treasury committee, confirmed that the authorities were uncertain about the UK economy's response to high interest rates. Mr John Fleming, the Bank's chief economist and principal author of some of its more Delphic quarterly ruminations, even suggested that evidence of a "slowdown" was "precarious."

The Bank stuck to its view that a three-month to six-month horizon was still needed to assess the effects of higher interest rates. But it was not saying with any great conviction that a rise in interest rates was the right answer.

Its \$1.2bn of intervention to support sterling in March also served to underline the pressures on the pound. A lot has been made of the Bank's "war chest" of foreign reserves, but if anyone thinks he

UK gilts yields



Source: Warburg Securities

can find an official at the Bank who believes that intervention alone can save sterling from a singed assault on the currency for any but a temporary period, he had better think again.

No one at the Bank does. It was the argument about the limits of intervention in March 1988, when the pressures on the pound were in the opposite direction. Now that the pound is tending towards being weak, a defensive rise in interest rates to protect sterling will be its preferred position if the pressures on the currency become acute.

If doubts were being expressed by the officials, then they found ready listeners in the market as well. By the end of the week a number of leading UK securities houses had put out circulars forecasting

higher interest rates to come, accompanied by either a "hard landing" scenario or, at best, a slightly lumpy "soft landing."

Supporting the change in sentiment is a growing sense that despite signs of a slowing in activity there is still a lot of life left in the UK economy. It was interesting that the Governor, in his evidence to the Treasury committee, could adduce no more evidence of a slowdown than his officials were able to do in February, when the Bank's quarterly bulletin was published.

The consequence of this robustness is more inflation, a bigger current account deficit and, when policy adjusts by raising interest rates another notch near, a slower growth in 1990.

Mr Bill Martin at UBS Phillips & Drew, a prominent member of the "hard landing" school, sees the UK drifting towards a period of stagnation, where inflation remains around 6 per cent and growth falls to around 1.5 per cent next year. This has to be the most bearish outlook for a bond market anywhere.

He is encouraged in this view by history (after all post-war booms the bust has been characterised by a period of below-trend growth); by the outlook for pay negotiations; by the balance of payments constraint on growth; and by his belief that the Chancellor will fail to deliver the re-emergence of 2 point rise in interest

rates necessary to deal a sharp shock to the economy.

What P&D is to the hard landing school, Warburg Securities is to the soft landing school of the UK's prospects. The threat, as Warburg sees it, is inflation, but not accompanied by a steep slowing in the growth rate or a ballooning in the current account deficit.

Higher inflation comes on the back of stronger oil prices and unit labour costs, together with an expectation that domestically generated cost pressures will be more robust than first thought.

The labour market is a special concern here. With inflation expectations rising, the labour market tight and company profits still healthy, the clear risk is that pay deals will keep rising, and at a quicker rate, in the coming months. Last week's news that 75,000 electricity workers have rejected a pay deal of 6.9 to 7 per cent has fuelled concern.

Warburg is therefore looking for a rise in interest rates of one percentage point to 14 per cent. The trigger for the move will be some domestic indicator or a precipitous fall in the value of sterling in response to some unwelcome domestic event. Warburg does not see a rise in bank base rates forced on the Government by essentially external reasons, such as a tightening in US or West German monetary policy.

Simon Holberton

FT/AIBD INTERNATIONAL BOND SERVICE

Large table listing international bond yields and prices for various countries including Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the UK. Columns include instrument name, yield, and price.

Advertisement for CERUS B.V. Amsterdam, featuring 4 1/4% Bonds with Warrants 1989-1994 of Swiss Francs 100,000,000. Includes logos for Societe Generale de Belgique and various financial institutions like S.G. Warburg Soditic SA and DL Bank (Schweiz).

STRAIGHT BONDS: Yield to redemption of the mid-price. Average bond is expressed in millions of currency units except for Yen bonds, where it is in billions. FLATTING RATE BONDS: US dollars unless indicated. Margins show six-month forward rate for US dollars. C-cou=convertible coupon. CONVERTIBLE BONDS: US Dollars unless indicated. Prem=percentage premium of the current effective price of buying shares via the bond over the most recent share price. WARRANTS: Equity warrant prem=exercise premium over current share price. Bond warrant c-yld=exercise yield at current warrant price. Closing prices on APRIL 7.

INTERNATIONAL CAPITAL MARKETS AND COMPANIES

# Advanced Micro bounces back to profit after cuts

By Louise Kehoe in San Francisco

ADVANCED MICRO Devices (AMD), the US semiconductor manufacturer, bounced back to profitability in the first quarter after heavy losses and a big workforce reduction in the final quarter of 1988.

A pick-up in orders from major makers of personal computers (PCs) boosted revenues, the company said. AMD has been significantly affected by uncertainties in the PC market, to which it is a big supplier.

Sales for the quarter were \$265.2m, down 5 per cent from the \$284.2m reported in the same period a year ago but up 9 per cent from the immediately preceding quarter, when AMD reported losses of \$34.1m on sales of \$248m.

Net income in the three months to March 26 was \$10.2m, or 9 cents per share, compared with \$20.2m or 22 cents per share a year ago.

Mr W.J. Sanders, chairman, said: "While we enter the current quarter with improved prospects, we are highly dependent on turns business (orders booked for delivery within the quarter) to continue our sales

growth." He went on: "The leading manufacturers of personal computers appear to have corrected an imbalance of component inventories and are once again ordering semiconductors at their rate of usage."

"There continues to be some weakness in demand from the second tier of PC manufacturers," he said.

Sales of CMOS (complementary metal oxide semiconductor) chips rose to 18 per cent of integrated circuit revenues, up from 14 per cent. CMOS chips represent the highest growth sector of the semiconductor industry and AMD's ability to participate in this market is seen as an important signal of its future growth.

"Exports rose to a record 49 per cent of total sales, the company said.

Cost reduction measures imposed in the fourth quarter, which included 2,400 job cuts, coupled with increased productivity enabled AMD's profitability to rebound, the company said. Research and development spending was reduced to 16.9 per cent of

sales from 18.8 per cent in same quarter a year ago.

● Tandon, a US maker of PCs, has cut its domestic workforce by 20 per cent or 130 in a move that reflects a shake-out in the sector. It said the cuts were needed so that the company could function in an increasingly competitive market.

Big US makers of PCs, including IBM, Compaq and Apple Computer, are gaining an increased share of the market at the expense of smaller players such as Tandon, industry analysts said.

Tandon recently reported losses of \$9.9m for 1988 compared with net income of \$17.1m from continuing operations in the previous year.

In 1987, Tandon switched the focus of its business from PC disk drives to complete PC systems.

Some 80 per cent of 1988 sales were in Europe, and this continues to be its dominant market, Tandon said.

The company intends to go ahead with the planned introduction of a new range of higher performance PCs.

# Liffe-Matiff clash looms on D-Mark contract

By Katharine Campbell

BRITISH and French futures exchanges are poised for head-to-head competition to win custom for an almost identical Euro D-Mark three-month interest rate futures contract after an announcement from Matiff, the French market, that it plans to introduce its product in an unofficial over-the-counter basis on April 19.

Liffe, which has chosen April 20 for the London launch, has been marketing its product since mid-February, hoping to capitalise on the success of the exchange's first German contract, a future on 10-year government bonds (bunds). The bund is on occasion more heavily traded than Liffe's one-time bellweather contract, the long UK government bond future.

Matiff, by contrast, has moved hastily since regulatory approval of draft proposals 10 days ago to ensure the listing of its rival venture beats Liffe to the starting line. Competing futures exchanges tend to attach considerable importance to such matters as timing, though the marketplace may take as long as a year to vote - by where it channels liquidity - which contract is to succeed.

Final regulatory approval for the French version will not be obtained until the day Matiff begins trading on the TBS system, which is a telephone market restricted to exchange members.

Trading on the floor will not begin until May 9, to allow for time to iron out the problems of overcrowding in the pits, among other things.

While the French exchange claims to be the world's third largest futures market ahead of Liffe, its selection of contracts has so far been confined to French franc products. Mr Michael Jenkins, Liffe chief executive, predicts that "inevitably the French banks will trade on their home exchange, but I believe that most of the other players will come to London."

Some of the big French banks have already begun trading a Euro D-Mark look-alike product in Paris.

# Steinbergs reject C\$1bn Oxdon bid

By Robert Gibbens in Montreal

THE STEINBERG family of Canada has turned down a renewed C\$1bn (US\$840m) offer from Toronto's Oxdon Investments for Steinberg, their supermarket and property group.

Oxdon is a consortium of Oxford Development, Gordco Investment and an affiliate of entrepreneur Mr Sam Mann's Unicorn Canada.

It proposed a C\$1bn recapitalisation of Steinberg under which the eastern Canada supermarkets would be sold to Loblaw Cos and the Steinberg

shopping centres and other supermarket property assets would be rolled into Oxdon.

The offer claimed that under Quebec's corporate law, voting and non-voting shareholders of Steinberg could vote on the offer with equal rights. Steinberg has 6m voting shares and 17m non-voting shares outstanding.

Under the offer each Steinberg shareholder could choose C\$50 a share cash, one share in a new company to hold the property assets, or a combination of cash and shares.

The Steinberg board, including representatives of the family holding 87 per cent of the voting stock, unanimously rejected the Oxdon offer. A similar offer worth slightly less was rejected nine months ago.

Steinberg lawyers said once the board had rejected the latest Oxdon offer, shareholders would have to vote in separate classes on the recapitalisation plan, even if it were court-sanctioned.

The Steinberg board said continuing the business as a food distributor and property

group was in the interests of all shareholders.

Oxdon said it would decide early this week whether to take its recapitalisation plan to court.

● Mr Craig Dobbin, a Newfoundland entrepreneur, has tightened his hold on the Canadian helicopter charter market. His CHC Helicopter has bought Viking Helicopters, an Eastern Canada operator, with about 60 machines and annual revenues of about C\$1m.

CHC contracts out helicopters and crews.

# Van Ommeren boosts income and revenues

By Our Financial Staff

VAN OMMEREN, Cetelem, the Dutch transport and trading group, boosted net profits by more than a third last year to Fl 54.6m (\$26m) from Fl 40.4m, on revenues which rose 24 per cent to Fl 2.4bn.

The company said its transport division benefited from favourable developments both in the dry cargo and tanker sectors, while income from inland distribution was virtually unchanged.

Overcapacity in north-west European mineral oil storage brought lower results for that business, but Singapore and US facilities fared better.

On the trading side, the company's mainline consumer durables business improved but Van Ommeren acknowledged "disappointing developments" in Middle Eastern meat trading via Australia.

# Aegon raises dividend as earnings climb by 15%

By Our Financial Staff

AEGON, last of the big three Dutch insurers to report 1988 results, said net profit last year rose 15.1 per cent to Fl 988m (\$195m) from Fl 858m in 1987, and raised its dividend for 1988 from Fl 3.75 a share to Fl 4.70.

The dividend increase from the second largest Dutch insurance group far exceeded the Fl 4 payout widely expected by analysts, and reflected good prospects this year. "In short, Aegon put an outstanding year behind it in 1988 and expects the same (strength) in 1989," the company said.

Earnings per share rose 13.2 per cent to Fl 10.57 from Fl 9.33 on a larger number of shares outstanding.

Aegon derives just under half its worldwide revenues from outside the Netherlands. But it was the Dutch operations that paced the company's worldwide earnings and

revenue gains last year, the insurer said.

Increases were spread out through most of the Netherlands insurance businesses, most notably the motor lines, which, as with other insurers, were highly unprofitable in recent years because of surging claims in high crime cities such as Amsterdam.

Worldwide, Aegon's life assurance lines generated Fl 3,598m of premium receipts, 18 per cent more than a year earlier. Operating earnings in this sector rose nearly 10 per cent to Fl 458m.

Combined non-life businesses posted a revenue gain of 14 per cent to Fl 2,883m.

Aegon's 1988 financial performance compares with Nationale-Nederlanden's profit rise of 12 per cent and Aneq's 5.3 per cent net earnings decline after big one-time gains in 1987.

# Nirma Chemical to invest in five projects

By Gita Piramal, recently in Ahmedabad

NIRMA CHEMICAL Works, a detergent manufacturer and second largest privately held group, is to invest more than Rs2bn in five new projects which will make it one of Asia's most integrated soap and detergent makers.

In the latest and most ambitious of the proposals, it plans to manufacture 60,000 tonnes per annum (tpa) of linear alkyl benzene (LAB), a licence for which is being sought from the government.

Four projects are in advanced stages of implementation. A 60,000 tpa distilled fatty acid plant is expected to be commissioned this month as will be a 4,000 tpa glycerine plant. A 100,000 tpa sulphuric acid facility will be commissioned by the end of June while a project for the production of 15,000 tpa of alpha olefin sulphate will be ready by the end of the month.

All except one of these five detergent intermediate plants

will be located at Mandali in Mehasana (Gujarat). Most of the funds needed will be internally generated. Mr Girish Mehta, director of Nirma Management Service, the group's management arm, says: "At present we have no intention of going public. The company will finance the new projects from internal accruals. Maybe a small element will be raised from the capital market, perhaps in the form of debentures."

The group, currently with 9,000 workers in four factories producing 500,000 tpa of detergent, has grown to hold 49 per cent of the Indian market, largely at the expense of Hindustan Lever, a Unilever subsidiary, which now has a 20 per cent share.

Nirma was founded by Mr Karsanbhai Patel, a chemist, who expanded demand through down-market, low-priced products.

# Japan agrees rules for trade in bond options

By Michiyo Nakamoto in Tokyo

JAPANESE securities firms and banks have agreed rules for over-the-counter trading in bond options, and the Ministry of Finance is expected to allow dealings in the instruments to begin at the end of the month.

It will cover Japanese government, state-guaranteed and municipal bonds as well as yen-denominated foreign bonds and foreign currency bonds.

The minimum will be set at Y100m face value and the premium will be paid within four days. The option is to be exercised within a year. The move is expected to make investment in the underlying bonds more attractive by offering hedging possibilities.

# Stena Line's off-season six-month losses dip

By Sara Webb in Stockholm

STENA LINE, the Swedish passenger ferry company, showed a loss of SKr16.3m (\$2.5m) after financial items for its off-season six months to February against a loss of SKr17.8m in the comparable period a year ago.

However, the company expects full-year profits to reach SKr240m as increased capacity during the peak season should help to boost earnings. Full-year profit for 1987-88 totalled SKr212m after financial items.

Group turnover was SKr1.25bn, an increase of 26 per cent on the previous year, with the travel and freight business accounting for SKr1.21bn of this figure.

Stena Line, which is quoted

on the Stockholm Stock Exchange, is controlled by the family-owned Stena group, which last month announced that it had acquired an 8.17 per cent stake in Bermuda-based Sea Containers.

The company said the first six months had been saddled with non-recurring costs resulting from the acquisition of a Canadian ferry business.

Stena Line started off operating routes in the Nordic region, but has decided to expand internationally.

The Canadian acquisition last October was followed by an announcement recently that it wants to buy Stoomvaart Maatschappij Zeeland, a Dutch ferry company, for about SKr360m.

# Pohjola rise prompts rare higher payout

By Olli Virtanen in Helsinki


POEJOLA, Finland's leading insurance group, made consolidated net income, after transfer to equalisation reserves and taxes, of FM174m (\$38.6m) in 1988, up from FM116m.

It reported a record non-life result of FM377m, up from FM272m. Pohjola's premium income of non-life insurance rose 19 per cent to FM2.8bn.

Earnings per share amounted to FM4.28 while the corresponding figure in 1987 was FM3.47. Pohjola proposes a rare increase in its dividend to FM1 from a long-standing FM0.90.

Direct insurance had a total premium revenue of FM2.3bn, up from FM1.9bn in 1987.

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January, 1989



## LEGAL COLUMN

## Impact of contingency fees 'has been overstated'

By David Churchill

THE INTRODUCTION of contingency fees into the English and Welsh legal system is unlikely to be as dramatic a change as has been forecast, according to Mr Leo Herzl, a Chicago-based partner in Mayer, Brown and Platt.

Mr Herzl, who has extensive experience of contingency fees in the US, gave his view in London last week at a seminar on the green papers for reform of the legal profession. He said: "On the face of it, the proposal is not nearly as dramatic a change as has been made out in public comments."

The contingency fee system as outlined in the green papers earlier this year "is an arrangement whereby a lawyer agrees he will accept his client's case on the basis that he receives no payment if the case is lost, but that if it is won he will be paid some percentage share of the award made by the court."

Mr Herzl said that the so-called "English rule" - that the loser in litigation must pay his opponent's lawyers' fees - "would probably be a tremendous dampener on the use of contingency fees."

However, he also suggested that the changes proposed by the Lord Chancellor might be more significant than they at first appear.

He said: "There may be implications in them of a rejection of the past and of more

radical changes yet to come." According to Mr Herzl, contingent fee arrangements are the most important factor in the substantial level of litigation in the US and the large awards made. "They dominate personal injury litigation and are also an important factor in other speculative civil litigation."

Mr Herzl also gave his opinion - from an American perspective - on the reasons for the overhaul of the profession being considered by the Government.

### 'On the face of it, the proposal is not nearly as dramatic a change as has been made out in public comments'

A key reason, he suggested, was that large London solicitors' firms would like to compete better internationally. "To compete better internationally, they would also like to do trial work, as their US competitors do. Thus they are ready to give up something in exchange."

He believed that "small firms will clearly have to make concessions, anyway, with regard to conveyancing, so they don't have much to lose - and may gain - from the changes."

He also suggested that many barristers did not get as much

of the system as they once did. "For example, some barristers probably cannot afford to become judges and many barristers would probably like the chance to compete in a free market for clients."

Another reason advanced by Mr Herzl for favouring change was that important corporate clients of law firms were probably against the present system. "They have in-house lawyers who would like to choose their own trial lawyers and, in some cases, do their own trial work. Experience with American

rules on costs, no class actions, damages set by judges not juries and the very limited concession to contingency fees still leaves England with a very conservative legal structure compared to the US."

PARIS is the destination for the City firm of Watson, Farley, and Williams, which is planning to open an office in the French capital in June. Lawyers at the new office, situated in Paris's busy commercial centre near the Champs Elysee, will primarily offer banking and shipping law services to both French and international clients.

The office will be headed by Mr Nigel Moss, who is at present working for a bank in Paris. Two further lawyers will be recruited from the firm's London office.

Watson, Farley and Williams already has practices in Greece and Norway and has plans to expand the Paris office once it has been established.

MEANWHILE, Lovell White Durrant (which claims to be Europe's second largest firm of lawyers) is developing its links with the Soviet Union. The firm is taking exhibition space and putting on a seminar in Moscow as part of the British-

Soviet month now taking place.

Mr Quentin Archer from Lovell White Durrant said: "Our seminar will show that help is available from experienced professionals for both importers and exporters in tackling the mechanics of trade with the Soviet Union."

THE STRONG growth of franchising as a business development system throughout Europe has led a group of independent lawyers in European Community countries to form an association to tackle European franchising issues, especially after the unified market in 1992.

The Adlers European Franchise Lawyers Group has been formed on the initiative of Mr Martin Mendelsohn, senior partner of the City firm of Adlers.

The setting up of the group follows new EC rules which enable franchisors to obtain exemption from EC competition law.

The group is aimed at helping franchisors in any of the EC countries to expand into other parts of the EC and to assist franchisors from outside the EC - especially those in the US, Canada, and Japan - to enter Europe. "The group will offer an

informed source of advice and local knowledge within the EC on a cost-effective basis," Mr Mendelsohn said.

"Through the interchange of information between members it will be possible to take the franchisor into each new country in turn without expensive and time-consuming repetitive legal work."

SIX out of every 10 junior barristers would consider joining a firm of solicitors as advocates or trial lawyers, according to a survey of London barristers.

The survey, carried out by City solicitors Barlow Lyde and Gilbert, found that junior barristers would consider this only as a "last resort" if the Green Papers are implemented.

The key criteria chosen by barristers for selecting a firm of solicitors, according to the survey, was the type and quality of work available. Remuneration and "prospects", however, was seen as the second most important factor.

Not surprisingly, some 85 per cent of the 37 chambers who took part in the survey believed that an independent civil bar as presently constituted would cease to exist if the Green Paper proposal to take away the barristers' monopoly becomes law.

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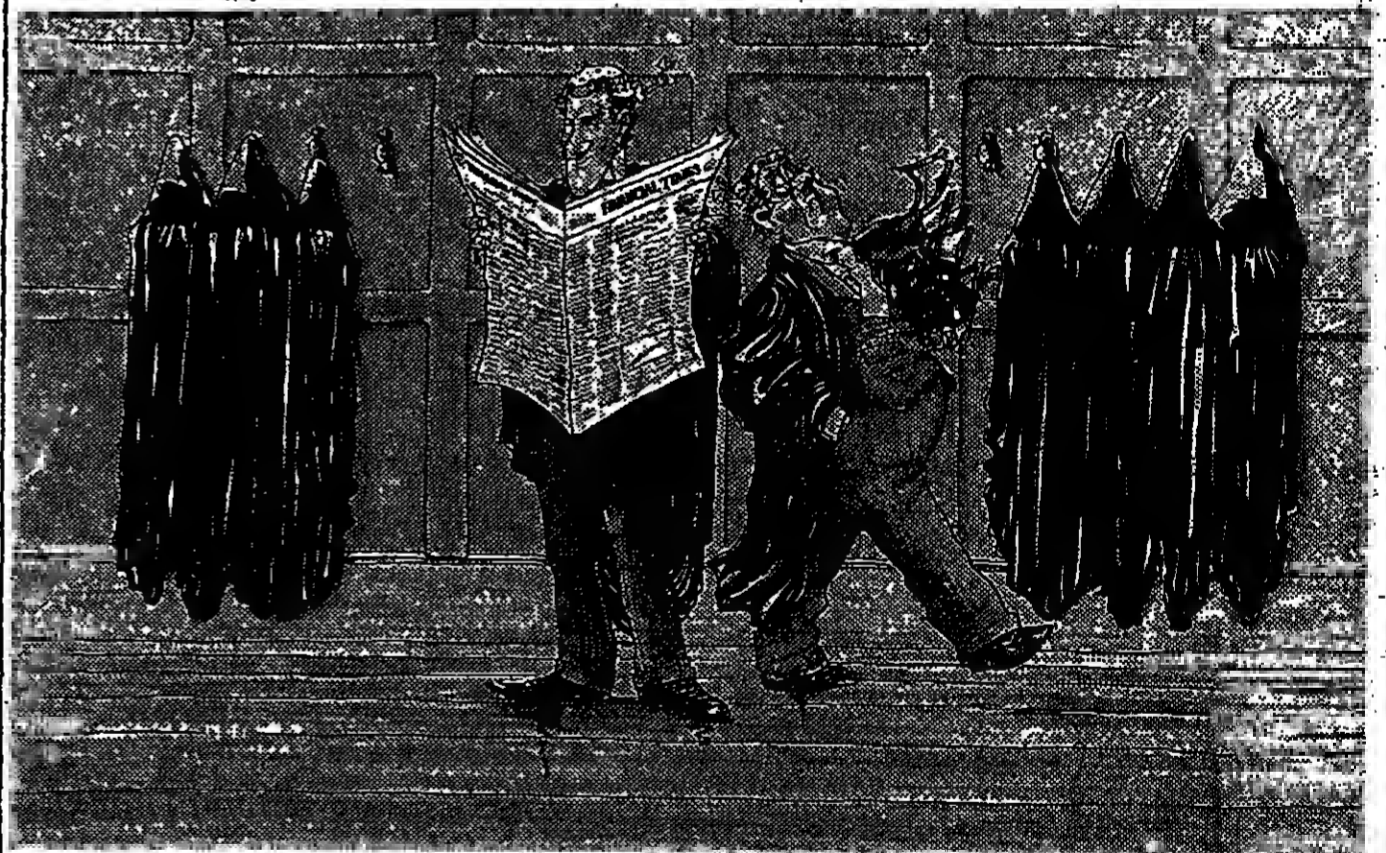
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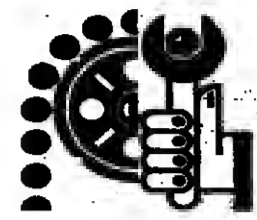
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FINANCIAL TIMES

Legal Pages



# FINANCIAL TIMES SURVEY



The industrial towns of North East Lancashire have a proud tradition of independence. But

the big question now for the area's future is how its strengths can be manipulated so as to underpin a vital, modern manufacturing base, as Hazel Duffy reports here.

## Further signs of recovery

NORTH EAST Lancashire, in common with most of Britain's industrial areas, is starting to benefit from the growth in the national economy.

The unemployment rate is well down, to around 8 per cent, although nearer 10 per cent among males. Pockets of high unemployment persist, but parts of the area fall below the national average.

The challenge that this part of Lancashire faces is to build an economic structure which will provide well-paid jobs and avoid the adverse consequences in times of reduced activity levels of over-reliance on a few major sectors.

It has also to provide a more attractive environment from the relics of the industrial past, preserving - where appropriate - and re-building to harmonise with the considerable physical attributes of the area.

This is not a part of the country which has suffered massive dereliction from the 1980s industrial restructuring. Coal mining and heavy engineering had given way to a variety of activities many years ago.

In some respects, the middling status makes the process of renewal and change more difficult. Public resources, whether from Whitehall, or,

increasingly, from Brussels, have not been concentrated on this part of the country in the way that the former docks and steel areas, for instance, have demanded.

The main advantage in terms of public support has been the scattered enterprise zones around the area. They have succeeded in focusing property interest on the region, and a slow raising of industrial rents.

The Leeds-Liverpool canal is the focal point for physical renewal, but its very nature means that a lot of change will be needed before it can be seen to be having an impact on the surrounding area as has happened in more concentrated urban areas.

The recovery from the recession of the early 1980s has encouraged the continuation towards a broader spread of industries, and diversification among the survivors in the traditional sectors. A sprinkling of high tech manufacture fans out along the valleys, and the textiles sector has added value to its products. The shoe industry in the Rossendale valley has survived, although there have been new closures recently.

The mix of the old and the new, the indigenous industries

and those which have been attracted into the area, large international manufacturers and small entrepreneurial concerns, hold the key to its future prosperity. This remains primarily an industrial sub-region. Efforts to bring in service industries, even tourism, are well-placed but manufacturing will predominate.

Its location determines the importance of industry. It would be unwise to expect that it will become a major destination for the re-location of financial services out of the south east. The beneficiaries there will be the cities and towns which are more easily accessible to London, and those which already have their own core of such services.

So far, the re-location of public sector jobs from Whitehall and its environs has not bene-



## North East Lancashire

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So far, the re-location of public sector jobs from Whitehall and its environs has not bene-

fited this part of the north. That may be remedied, although the suspicion is that the most deserving, in the sense of the most deprived areas of the UK will be picked first by ministers for the transfer of these jobs.

The main centres of personal and professional services in the north of England cannot be expected to congregate in this area. Blackburn, for instance, is not setting out to try and steal the mantle of Manchester, although the Rossendale valley increasingly is coming within the sphere of influence of greater Manchester.

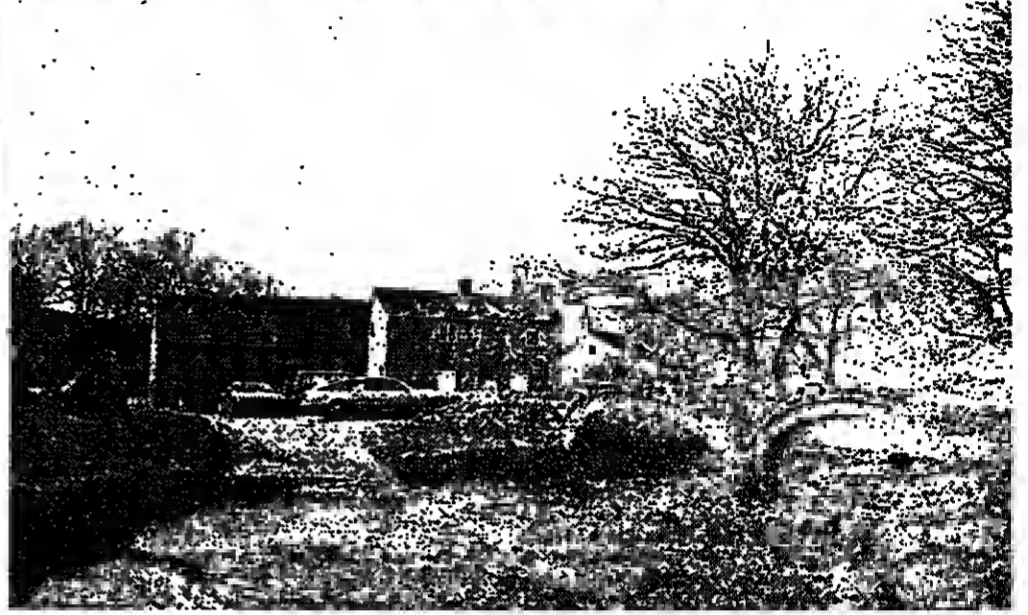
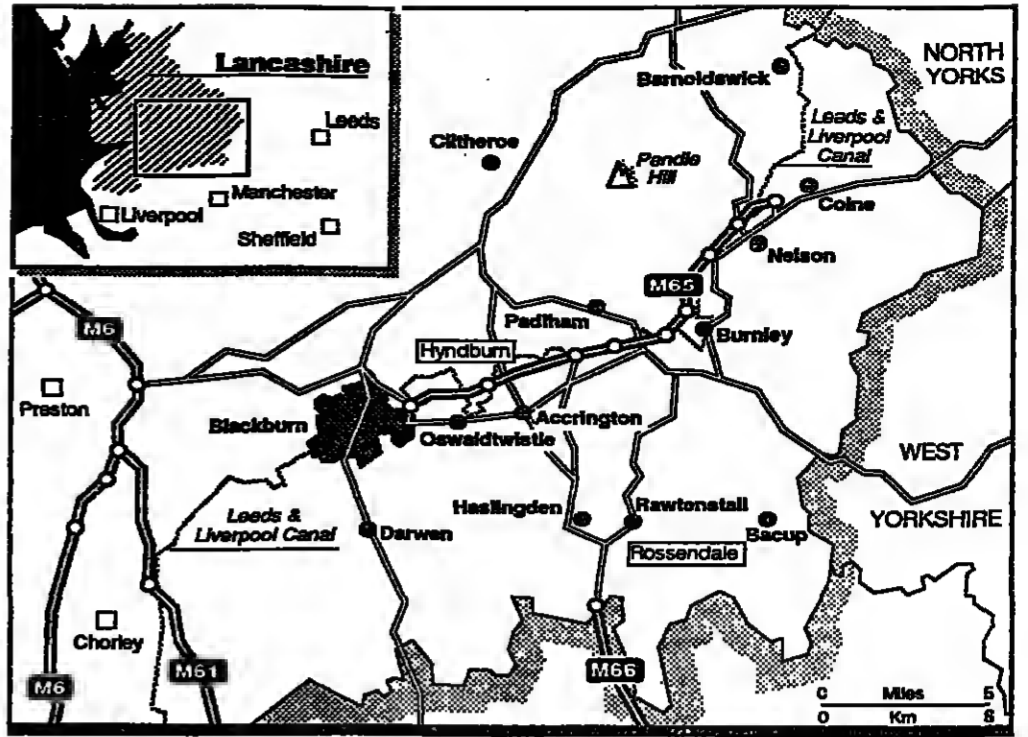
Meanwhile, Preston, on the western borders of the territory, is the commercial as well as the administrative capital of the county of Lancashire.

The area is sometimes strikingly beautiful - in a bleak

sort of way. Bare hills are the dramatic backdrop to some of the towns. The planned £300m restoration of the strips of land alongside the canal could provide an element of the waterfront focus which is proving so popular in the rebuilding and restoration of built-up Britain. But tourism prospects will be limited to the short-term stay.

So the future, even in the highly service-oriented UK economy, must be manufacturing. The question for north east Lancashire is the manner in which its strengths can be manipulated so as to underpin a vital, modern manufacturing base.

As the effects of the recession recede, albeit punctuated by problems in some sectors, that question is increasingly pertinent. The sort of future that the area can reasonably



■ Above: Wrycolter, near Colne; and pictured top left, the Town Hall at Burnley. □ Traditional industries: still resilient, page 3. □ Blackburn: a new image emerges, page 3. □ Burnley: adapting to change, page 4. □ Hyndburn: rising level of private investment, page 4. □ Transport links strengthened, page 4.

envisage will provide the basis for planning now. To some extent, it is already happening. Good communications are vital. The canal provided them in the past. Motorways and link roads have been built to meet the needs of the present. Rail freight could be the future. Mr Jim Mason, chairman of Lancashire Enterprises, the economic development wing of the county council, lobbies vig-

orously for all of the county to gain easy access to the northern freight terminals which British Rail is expected to choose to connect with the Channel Tunnel. For the corridor stretching from Blackburn to Nelson and Colne, it is vital. The concern of Mr Mason, and others, is that if the north west is denied fast links to the centre of the European Community, it will lose out on the growth which the single Euro-

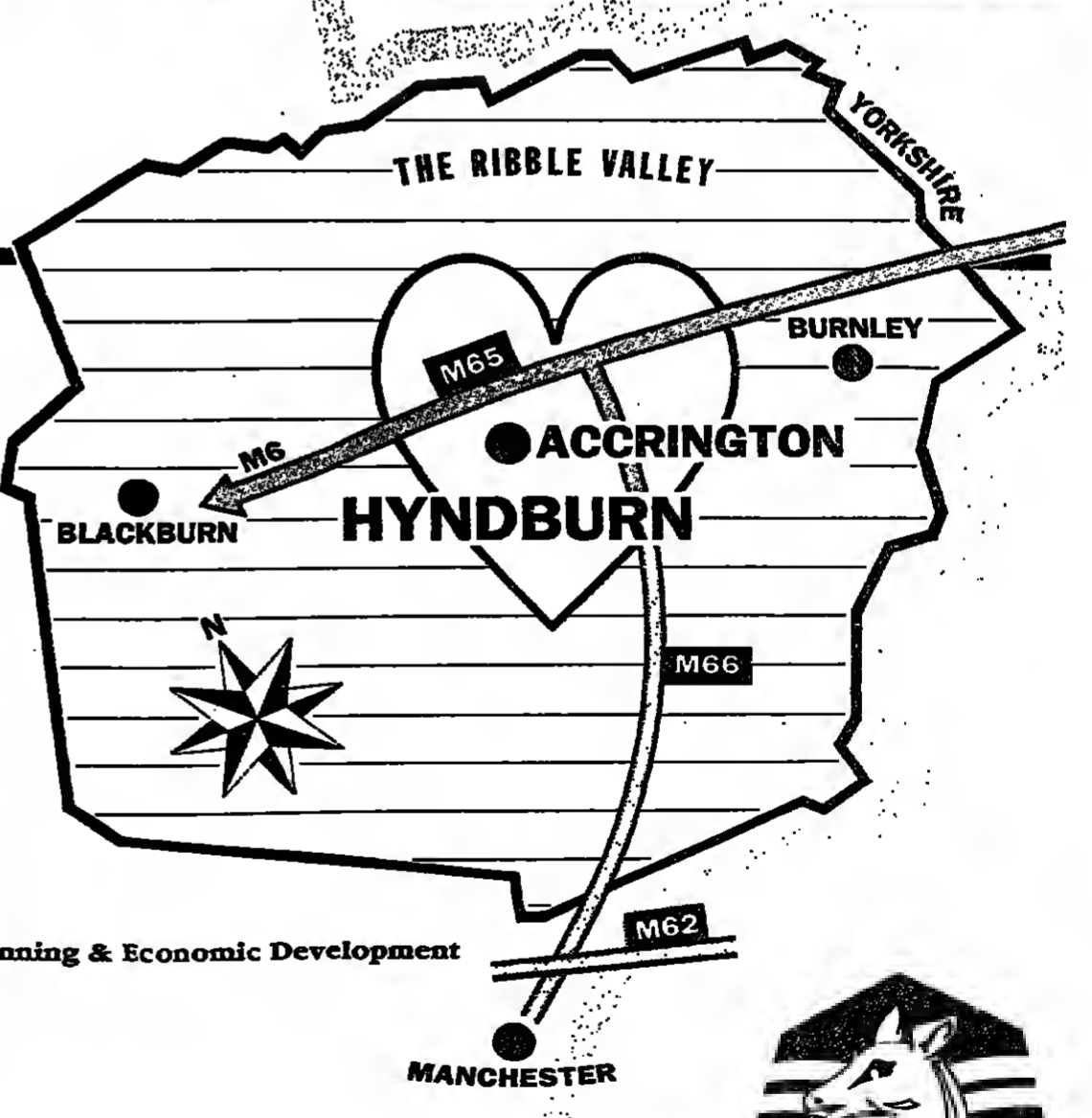
pean market must bring. For all of the regions which have had to fight hard to grab a share in the wealth of the southern half of the country, there is this new fear concerning Europe. In the past, there was an outflow of people from the area to central Lancashire, fuelled by the establishment of the new town. Continued on page 4

# HYNDBURN

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NORTH EAST LANCASHIRE 2

Radical changes in the regional manufacturing base

**Industry restructured**

ANY EXAMINATION of North-East Lancashire's industrial structure reveals that the traditionally-dominant textile and engineering sectors are now only a part of a diverse economy.

The manufacturing base of the area, as in the rest of Lancashire, has undergone radical restructuring and although textiles, footwear and engineering have all enjoyed growth over the past four years, no one sector can now be said to dominate an economy which is still based substantially around manufacturing.

Much of the industrial growth has followed grant rather than geographical boundaries. The North-East Lancashire Enterprise Zone, split on seven sites between the authorities of Hyndburn, Rossendale, Burnley and

Pendle, has proved a catalyst for growth, as has the yet-incomplete motorway network.

All but three of the area's main industrial estates or enterprise zones have grown up by the present M65 Blackburn-Colebrook corridor.

Blackburn, lacking an EZ, has, nevertheless, managed to capitalise on its role as a sub-regional centre; a role which is likely to be strengthened when the Blackburn Southern By-pass effectively provides an east-west transport corridor between the M6 and Colne to the east.

The prospect of this motorway link being further extended to Leeds to create a second trans-Pendine route is sufficient to invest the area with an industrial importance in excess of its present capacity.

The area's largest employers are diverse and geographically spread, but there are only a handful of companies with more than 500 on the payroll. Recovery has been a slow and often painful process and the first fruits are only now being seen in the large number of companies expanding to the stage of 100-plus employees.

Royal Ordnance, at Blackburn, and ICL at Darwen, have weathered reasonably well and today both companies are considering tentative expansion. In ICL's case a new Persapex plant at Chapel's Industrial Park.

Other large companies in the towns include fibre-makers Scapa, Walker Steel, Mullard-Phillips, Thorn-Edwards, Philips, and Reed Paper and Board. Earlier this year, Reed announced plans for a £3.6m manufacturing plant on the Shadsworth industrial estate.

Elsewhere in North-East Lancashire, the major employers include Rolls-Royce aeroplanes and Slientright, at Barnoldswick, Fine Arts, the greeting-card producer, at Accrington, Lucas and Michelin, at Burnley, and Coloroll, at Nelson.

However, the lack of a truly cohesive big business base is perhaps a major reason why North-East Lancashire has no significant service sector; a critical problem which is beginning to impede prospects for future growth.

Although the traditional industries no longer enjoy economic dominance, they remain a vital part of the local economy. Textile operations, particularly around Burnley and Pendle, remain significant and footwear manufacture continues to thrive in Rossendale.

In Burnley and Pendle, over 150 companies are still engaged in textile production, though many have diversified out of the region's traditional weaving industry.

At Colne, Smith & Nephew produce a range of denim and household fabrics, while Dorna, at Burnley, produce curtains and bed-sheets. Peter Reed (Textiles), at Nelson, also make bed-linen. Other large employers in the sector include Dawes & Co, Coats Vivaldi Fabrics, and William Reed Weaving, at Nelson, and the aptly-named John Cotton, at Colne.

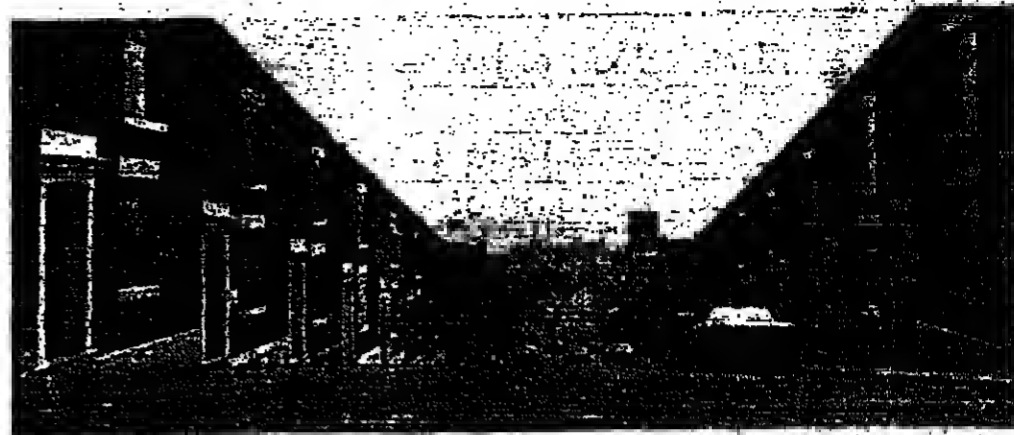
Down the A56 from Burnley, J.H. Birtwistle and Entfield Manufacturing, in Rossendale, are both of significance.

Wall-coverings are represented by Crown Wallcoverings, in Blackburn, and Coloroll, in Nelson. Last year, Coloroll paid around £7m for the privately-owned Blackburn wall-coverings manufacturer, Burlington.

In the Rossendale valley, footwear manufacture remains strong and is now employing some 3,500. Companies include: J.H. Hirst, Lambert Howarth & Sons, Ashworth & Hoyle, and the Bacup Shoe Co.

Political and social issues

**No place for safe-seaters**



It is still possible to buy a terraced house in Blackburn for under £70,000.

NO OTHER area of Britain combines such a heavy bias towards manufacturing employment with exceptionally high home ownership and Conservative voting habits. As if to rub in the individuality, one of the three Tory Parliamentary seats elects a Liberal borough councillor whose leader will have no truck with the Democrats and another is solidly Labour at local level.

North East Lancashire is not a place for safe-seaters. While the two southern-born Labour members (Peter Pike, Burnley, and Jack Straw, Blackburn) enjoy adequate majorities, the Tories, all North-westerners, count less than 10,000 votes between them.

Ken Hargreaves, who won Hyndburn by just 20 seats in 1983, saw his majority rise to 2,200 in 1987. John Lee, Pendle, the Tourism Minister, is helped to retain his seat by a three-party fight which squeezes the centre grouping. David Trippler's control of Rossendale and Darwen, at almost 5,000 votes, is the most comfortable of the three. Rossendale has proved a rewarding test-bed for small firms.

The social map of North East Lancashire shows a relatively small professional and managerial grouping, compared with a strong middle band of skilled workers and the self-employed. There are proportionately few members of the unskilled working classes, but a relatively high immigrant population.

In terms of community, the area is a federation of activities. It is quite usual for someone to live in Pendle, work in Hyndburn and shop in Burnley. Communications are now such that each town is only a few minutes' drive from the other. However, parochial interests are jealously guarded.

Put any two or three local residents together and convention has it that "what is good for Hyndburn is good for Blackburn or Burnley." But then, many remember the disbandment of NELEDA, the North East Lancashire Development Association, after Rossendale and Blackburn pulled out. And now there is the imminent demise of its successor at Burnley and Pendle.

"You do realise, of course, that the Liberals control Pendle" - that is always the starting point from Labour-run Burnley's side. Tony Graves, Pendle's unconstituted Liberal group leader, is better known for his national opposition to merger with the SLD. However, he insists that he is not a separatist. There are, he says, compelling financial reasons for Pendle to go it alone.

The borough's dilemma is that it receives very little aid from government sources. It has lost intermediate assistance status, which also means that European project funding is drawing to an end. It does not qualify for urban programme aid. The only continuing funding is devolved land grant. So the annual £60,000 contribution to the development association is, the group believes, better deployed

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Building products are represented by Accrington Brick, UPVC window and doors systems manufacturer, Vekaplast - whose UK headquarters have been established at Burnley - and sanel producers Nor-Vest UK, at Altham.

One of the most interesting sectors is furniture and associated products where the number of companies is increasing steadily. G-Plan, Alan Cooper at Todmorden and Senator International at Accrington are all operating in an expanding market.

Dauphin International at Blackburn is one of a number of seating companies based in an area which still retains traditional upholstery skills.

Other companies of more than passing significance to the area include the European production headquarters of the US medical products group, Medex, at Haslington; Minal Carpets, on the road at Bacup; and George Wilkinson (Burnley), whose two factories produce the Progress range of kitchenware.

In computers and electronics, the few significant employers have tended to concentrate around Blackburn. Companies operating at this sector include: MS Circuits and Terminal Display Systems, Phillips and BEC System Services, all at Blackburn.

At present, the area's heavy manufacturing bias marks it out from the rest of Lancashire, but without the necessary structure to service manufacturers, industry has become intrinsically linked with service centres such as Preston and Manchester.

Socially and politically, North East Lancashire is a sub-region with its own individuality, but its industry has lost much of its past autonomy and increasingly therefore must be regarded as only a part of the Hgsw which makes up the industrial and economic structure of the whole of Lancashire.

Martin Regan

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Archie Thompson, Executive Vice President, Texas Eastern.

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Council representatives visited the local commercial fabricator supplying impact-modified Veka uPVC systems from Vekaplast, inspected the fabrication process and the strict quality control procedures, and came away convinced.

After a small but successful pilot scheme had been carried out, the Dignoor Estate of 1,200 houses in Skelmersdale was refurbished with Veka systems. The houses on the estate had originally been fitted with metal windows, which suffered severe distortion, gave condensation problems and, more importantly, were alarmingly easy to open from outside.

As Gerry Burke, housing officer at West Lancashire District Council, commented: "The new Veka windows look far more attractive, have resolved the condensation problem and are totally secure. The fact that the quality of Veka systems has been recognised by industry bodies, such as the BSI, GGF, BPF and BBA convinced us that we were taking the right step."

Although the council knew it would achieve major long term savings through investing in uPVC systems from Vekaplast, it was keen to consult its tenants before a final decision was made. So, a meeting was held with the tenants at which a high-quality timber window and a Veka window were available for full inspection and discussion. The result was a unanimous vote for the Veka alternative.

Gerry Burke - Housing Officer

As Rosie Collin, a resident at Dignoor, remarked once her Veka windows had been installed: "Our new windows are superb. The condensation we used to get is a thing of the past!"

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**NORTH EAST LANCASHIRE 3**

**Traditional industries**

**Footwear and textile sectors still resilient**

IN A four-year period culminating in 1983, the manufacturing heart was ripped out of North-East Lancashire. The collapse of starting, falling consumer spending and cheap foreign imports combined to wreak havoc on local industries.

Textiles and footwear manufacture, structurally weak and labour intensive, were particularly hard hit. At one point, a textile mill was closing every fortnight and the fiercely independent shoe industry based around the Rosendale valley was losing a factory every month. Auxiliary engineering for the textile industry, a major employer around Accrington, virtually collapsed as the mills went out of business. Throughout the area, unemployment rates touched 19 per cent.

Today, 10 years on, both industries have proved resilient. Unemployment in the Rosendale valley is down to 6.35 per cent, while in the textile heartlands of Burnley and Pendle it stands below nine per cent.

The Lancashire footwear industry, originally created as an adjunct to local textiles, now comprises over 200 companies, many of them based within the Rosendale valley. The industry is an important centre of supply to the UK retail footwear market, mainly in ladies' fashion shoes and slippers.

It is an industry with much of the independent spirit that sets North-East Lancashire apart from the rest of the county. Local employers have shunned national trade federations, instead forming their own - the Northern Footwear Employers, which negotiates directly with the area's own trade union, the Rosendale Union of Boot, Shoe and Slipper Operatives.

Within the valley, union and management relations have been sufficient to allow the necessary re-structuring to take place with relative ease. The industry in the valley is currently halfway through a two-year pay deal worth a total of eight per cent. As regional pay bargaining is placed on the political agenda, the Rosendale example may assume

greater significance. In Rosendale, the footwear industry has survived without any of the massive capital investment and diversification seen in the textile industry. The larger companies in the valley have invested - but in order to overcome particular problems, rather than as a means of combating industry-wide defects.

An important advance in production has been the introduction of water-jet cutting methods. But only J.H. Hirst are believed to have the technology. Similarly, computer-aided design and manufacturing has barely penetrated valley production methods.

What the industry has chosen to address is the problem of inefficient factory space. Many shoe-producers were based in former textile mills which have proved unsuited to modern production. The introduction of the North-East Lancashire Enterprise Zone provided the necessary impetus for many companies to move into the industrial shed with substantial productivity gains. Better management and tighter financial planning have also made an impact.

The slack created as a result of factory closures has been taken up by smaller producers, employing dozens rather than hundreds of workers. These companies have a tendency to set-up to meet specific demand, operate for a few years and then go out of business when the market changes. It has created a local economy of considerable flux.

Footwear, with some 3,500 employees, two-thirds of them female, remains the main employer in the valley but the hard-won recovery is far from complete. Changes in stock-holding methods and the abandonment of a buy-British policy by major retailers is bringing worrying echoes of the past. There is also growing concern over the strength of sterling.

In the last year, three factories have closed their doors for the last time, the latest went into receivership last month with the loss of 160 jobs. Many of these workers will find employment with the smaller companies in the area.



Above: view across an industrial section of Burnley; and below, office furniture systems being made at Alan Cooper's factory at Burnley Road, Todmorden. The company is seeing buoyant demand across its expanding product range.



are accelerated, a significant rise in the unemployment level in the valley will follow. Mr Stephen Jury, managing director of Ashworth & Hoyle, says the industry is now more cautious than at any time in the past five years.

"Basically, we are all waiting to see which way the British Shoe Corporation and major retailers jump in terms of buying and stock policy," says Mr Jury. Resurrecting the economy of Rosendale has required more than a blind faith in the ability of the shoe industry to return to an even keel. In 1981, David Trippier, then director of the Enterprise Trust at St Helens, urged the creation of the second in Rosendale. The Trust has provided an energetic leadership in attracting new industry into the valley.

The trust director, Mr Ken Hornby, estimates that since formation, the trust has helped create 600 new businesses, employing some 2,000 people. Many of these start-ups have been by former textile or shoe industry employees and have done much to create a local industrial structure which no longer relies totally on footwear. "It is quite possible that many of these firms would have done just as well without us but figures suggest that the failure rate among start-ups is lower when they've had proper advice," he said.

The boom in start-ups now appears to be over and much of the Trust's present workload involves dealing with applications for expansion-related grants. However, the Trust faces a future more uncertain than the industries it was created to help. There is growing concern over the gradual reduction of Government funding and the

WHEN British Telecom chose to illustrate the Blackburn telephone directory with a picture of a textile mill it faced the combined wrath of the borough council, the chamber of commerce and local industrialists. To many, such a reaction may seem over-sensitive, but within Blackburn the struggle to escape the image of the past has become a key theme of its economic future.

Blackburn, population 110,000, has made considerable progress in re-structuring a manufacturing base which, in the past, has been dependent on the monopoly of textiles and engineering.

Today, less than five per cent of the working population is employed by the textile industry, compared with 70 per cent in the 1860s, and the traditional engineering industries, dismantled in the recession of the early 80s, has been replaced by a diverse manufacturing base. The town has achieved an underlying growth which has taken unemployment from a high point of 15.9 per cent in 1985 to its present level of 8.7 per cent.

The more affluent satellite of Darwen, population 30,000, though still economically dependent upon ICI's acrylics division, has also seen major changes in its manufacturing base.

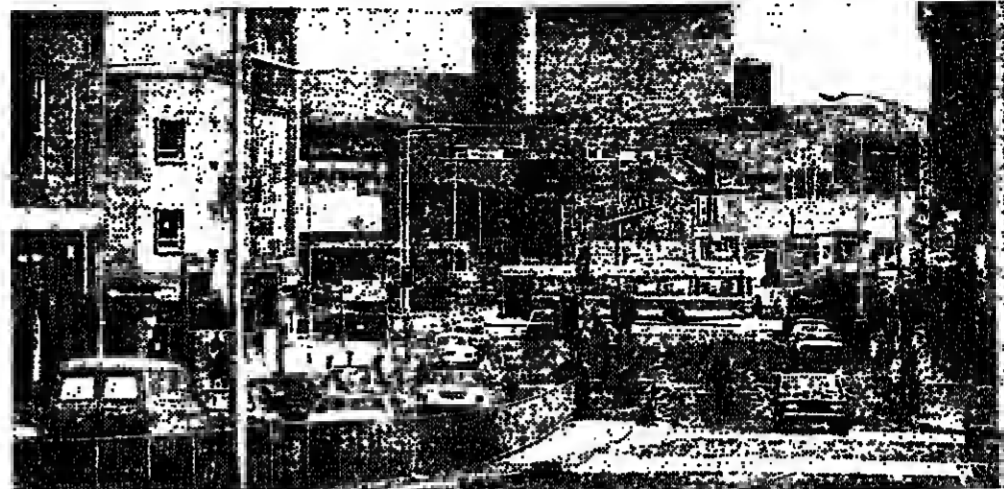
The catalyst for growth since 1985 has been the formal partnership between the town's Labour-controlled council and the Chamber of Commerce. Through a range of grant-aided initiatives, an Enterprise Trust, a Technology Centre and a network of business advice centres, the partnership has created an indigenous small business infrastructure of surprising resilience.

These smaller companies are now beginning to expand. Bridal-wear makers, Cupid, and spectacle-producers, Crown Eyeglass, have both arrived on the Third Market and a brace of other companies offer similar growth prospects.

The entrepreneurial spirit has also penetrated the cultural barriers of Blackburn's large Asian minority. This community, still active in textiles, has responded cautiously to initiatives aimed at business integration. Asians account for some 14 per cent of the population, but among young Asian

**BLACKBURN**

**A new image emerges**



Blackburn in need of more service industries.

males, unemployment remains stubbornly above 40 per cent. The BIC-sponsored Blackburn Partnership has been particularly involved in this work, most notably through the Asian Women's Enterprise Initiative, a scheme funded via the Regional Enterprise Unit and the Co-operative Bank, which will create a meeting place for Asian women who wish to become active in business.

Other projects promoted by the partnership have tended to lack ambition. Almost a year after the partnership was launched by Prince Charles, expectations are being downgraded.

Jim McKinstry, director of the Chamber of Commerce, says the partnership has yet to make any significant impact. "We fought hard to get BIC and we are glad we have it but not one of the 300 companies in the organisation has so far invested directly in Blackburn," he explained.

Industrial growth has been based in existing building stock. Both Blackburn and Darwen have intermediate-area Assisted Area Status, though the lack of an Enterprise Zone has placed the area at some disadvantage.

The main industrial estates are now saturated and the council is creating a new business park at Greenbank, supported by UDG. Over 200 acres of land are available for new industrial development. The economy remains firmly

manufacturing-based, with service industries accounting for just 15 per cent of total industry, excluding retail. The structure is reflected in the socio-economic groupings in the towns. Less than 13 per cent of the workforce is classified as professional or managerial. It is a problem affecting most of North-East Lancashire.

Dennis Artess, assistant chief executive (economic development) admits that the resulting lack of economic balance is a major concern. "Our biggest success has been diversification, but we need more service industries. We are determined never to be in a position of dependence upon one industry again," he said.

It is a view shared by Jim McKinstry, who adds: "If there is a downturn we catch a cold very quickly. We are looking for better balance."

Re-development of Blackburn's blighted former industrial sites has been linked with the tourism potential of the Leeds-Liverpool Canal. A £30m PROBE project for a 40-acre site will bring a new ice-rink and an executive housing scheme to the town centre, while the Ramam Wharf scheme, the conversion of a canal-side warehouse into sheltered business units, will soon be followed by a similar development on the opposite bank.

However, the outlook for tourism is unclear. Blackburn has so far failed to emerge with any scheme which has the

imagination of Hyndburn's Huncoot theme park plan.

The town is also faced with the problem of an inadequate road network, both within the town itself and in its lack of motorway standard links with the North-West's arterial road network. The Blackburn Southern Bypass, consultations for which start in May, will link the M65 and M6, effectively plugging Blackburn into the North-West's motorway network.

The more fundamental problem of town centre access requires an inner relief road, a project which is low on the Department of Transport's list of priorities.

Mr Don Lomax, a senior partner with a local firm of quantity surveyors, believes that without the relief road even the benefit of the motorway link may be lost.

"We must be the only town in the country where the roads get narrower as you approach the town centre," he said.

As Blackburn and Darwen look towards 1992, the lack of both a first-class road network and a significant service industry may become a critical weakness, but the growth of new manufacturing in a town which has needed to create a new industrial base with minimal inward investment must give rise to at least tentative optimism.

Martin Regan

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# FINANCIAL TIMES SURVEY

**Despite community problems, the loss of manufacturing jobs, the uncertainty of its international role and the FBI's revelations of fraud on the two futures exchanges, the city's position as an important business and regional centre is undisputed, says Deborah Hargreaves.**

## In need of a strong leader

CHICAGO IS wrestling with a changing role. Built on a heavy base of smokestacks and stockyards, it has worked hard to diversify, and is trying to mould an international image in finance.

The windy city's reach into the world financial scene extends from its unrivalled futures exchanges, anchored by a 140-year-old tradition of risk-taking. From its role at the turn of the century, as a centre for farmers from rural Illinois to sell their crops, and for the slaughter of some 6m pigs a year in the heyday of the stockyards, it has developed an entrenched trading culture. This, in turn, has evolved into the phenomenal financial futures business housed in the city today.

Mr Leo Melamed, Chicago's guru of financial futures and still a leading light behind the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, delights in recalling that Chicago, when he pioneered financial futures back in 1971, was home to no foreign banks — today more than 80 branches have established themselves there. Although the proliferation of foreign banks owes just as much to changes in Illinois banking statutes, it is undoubtedly Chicago's futures business

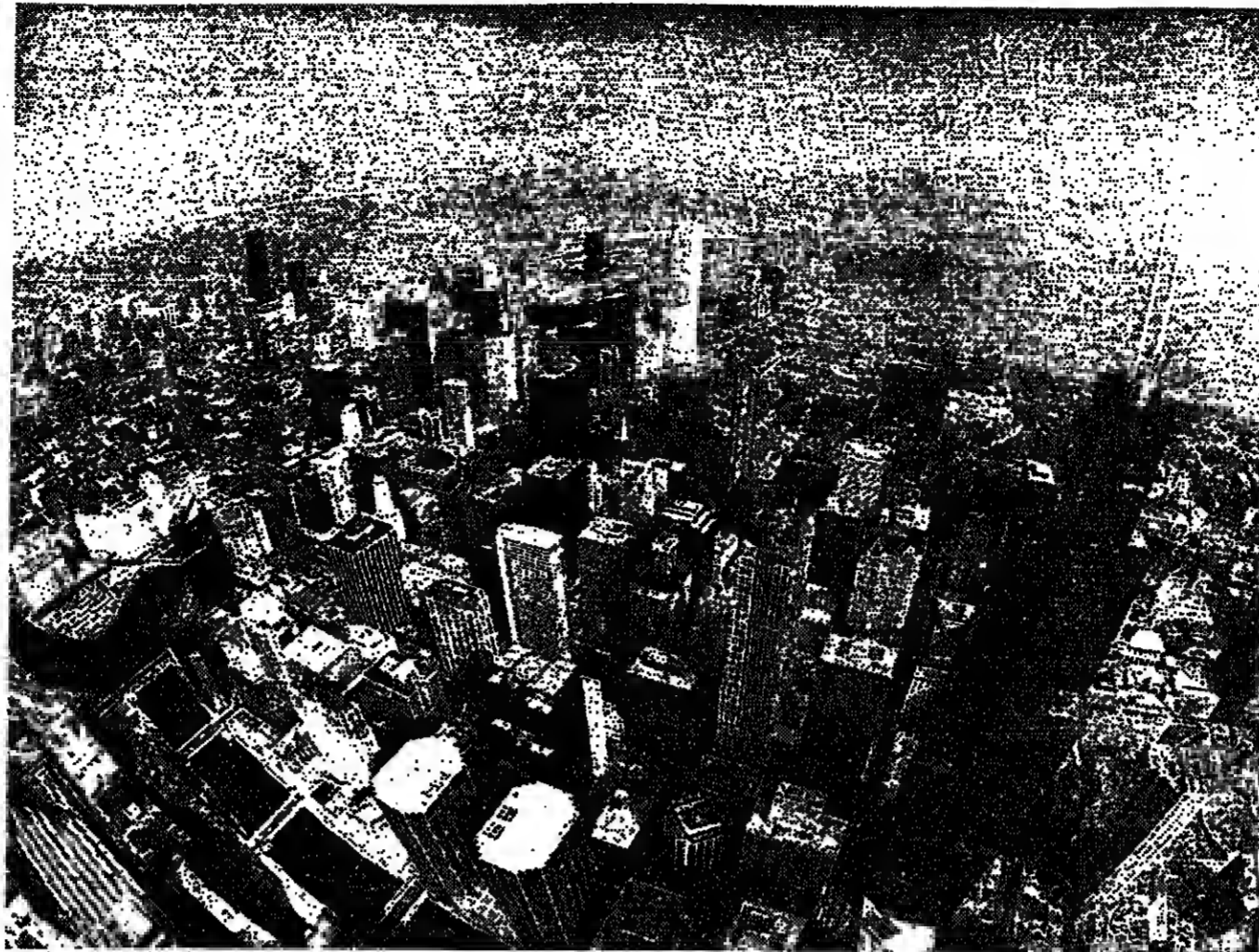
that has marked the city on the world map.

Its three futures and options exchanges account for more than 80 per cent of worldwide business, and Chicago also boasts a strong regional equities market at the Midwest Stock Exchange.

Mr Melamed's prediction that the development of financial futures would move the "centre of gravity of finance a few feet westwards towards Chicago" has been proved correct.

Employing 330,000 people in the Chicago metropolitan area, the city's financial services industry has blossomed from a base of 50,000 jobs a decade ago, and runs close behind those of New York and Los Angeles.

But revelations of a two-year undercover investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, into massive fraud at Chicago's exchanges, threaten to dent the integrity of the futures business. Even worse, for a city obsessed with its image, the prospect of multi-million dollar fraud in Chicago's futures community that went undetected before FBI agents infiltrated the trading floors with hidden microphones, raises the spectre of



# CHICAGO A FINANCIAL CENTRE

the windy city's corrupt and freewheeling past.

Chicago has long tried to distance itself from its gangster era, when Al Capone and his mob controlled everything that went on. But, at the same time, the city can take a kind of perverse delight in its corrupt origins; and, although the calls for reform are strong at election time, little has been done to trim the excesses of a bloated and costly city government.

A recent report by civic leaders claimed that Chicago city council was the largest, most costly municipal legislative body in the US. The city's severe structural problems are largely ignored by a squabbling city council, which continues to live up to its rambunctious political tradition.

Race remains an inflammatory issue in this deeply divided city — often cited as the most segregated in the US — and the black-white political struggle has been blown into the open again by this year's bitter race for mayor. Since the city's folk-hero black mayor, Mr Harold Washington, died 18 months ago, the black community has been in a moribund state of political disarray, rocked by suspicion of the black acting-mayor, Mr Eugene Sawyer.

Disunity among black voters now seems to have been one reason for the election of a white candidate, Mr Richie Daley, to the mayor's chair — a move that marks an unprecedented upset of a black incumbent by a white challenger in a major US city. Mr Daley is,

however, a familiar political figure in Chicago and carries the family tradition from his father, long-time Chicago mayor Richard Daley.

Mr Daley senior presided over City Hall for 21 years until his death in 1976, and is remembered for his dictatorial ways, which nevertheless "got things done — no matter how". The face of Chicago's booming downtown Loop district today remains very much a product of Mr Daley's vision.

Many of Chicago's business leaders had hoped for a victory by Mr Daley junior, to provide strong leadership that will tackle some of the city's entrenched problems. Most admit that the bickering council and its combative politics are clear negatives for Chicago business.

High corporate taxes and poor schools actively discourage new business from locating in Chicago, say business leaders. Although the city remains a headquarters for over 40 Fortune 500 companies, it has little success in attracting new names. The relocation to Chicago in 1987 of Firestone Tyre and Rubber Co — since taken over by Japan's Bridgestone — was the first move by a major company to the city in many years.

Sears Roebuck, the world's largest retailer, dealt a heavy blow late last year, when it announced that it would sell Chicago's most famous landmark, the Sears Tower — the world's tallest building — and move its 8,000 merchandise staff to a lower-cost location. Amid its changing business

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Thrills		Photograph: Glyn Gelin	

hase, Chicago has made an aggressive effort to retain and create new jobs, although its attempts have not always been well co-ordinated. The city has been losing manufacturing jobs at a rate of more than 2 per cent a year. Today, around a sixth of the city's 3.15m metropolitan workforce is employed in the manufacturing industry down from one third in the early 1970s.

These jobs have largely been lost to the booming suburbs or other, lower-cost, locations within the Great Lakes region. This has created an anomalous situation in Chicago where, sandwiched between an affluent suburban belt and robust downtown, the minority neighbourhoods are experiencing high unemployment and rapid urban decay.

Unemployment at 6.5 per cent is stuck stubbornly above the national average, and is much higher in the city's ghettos. A burgeoning downtown service industry has done little to absorb displaced manufacturing workers and, in any case, industrial jobs offer higher pay and better benefits.

In recognition of the need to get the city's neighbourhoods working, Chicago's Economic Development Commission has been revitalised as a public-private partnership. However, the body has so far done little more than slate three sites for industrial parks within the city, in a somewhat naive effort to attract heavy and light industry back to the neighbourhoods.

As Mr James Annable, chief economist at the First National Bank of Chicago explains, the high proportion of manufacturing jobs in Chicago for so long was a measure of its immaturity. "The city's future is definitely as a service centre for the Midwest, and is intimately intertwined with manufacturing. But land is too expensive to keep industrial jobs in the urban area."

While the skyline is altered in one of the longest real-estate booms in the city's history, the Loop remains in stark contrast to some of the city's notorious ghetto neighbourhoods. Reform of the near-bankrupt public housing authority and its crumbling public school system — described by former education secretary Mr William Bennett as the worst in the country — is long overdue.

Mr Annable believes that school reform is central to Chi-

ago's future growth: "Without doubt, it has to be the city's first priority. We're going to need a population that can read and write, to provide labour for economic growth." A reform plan for the city's public schools has been hammered out, but its implementation could be impeded by political jockeying and lack of money.

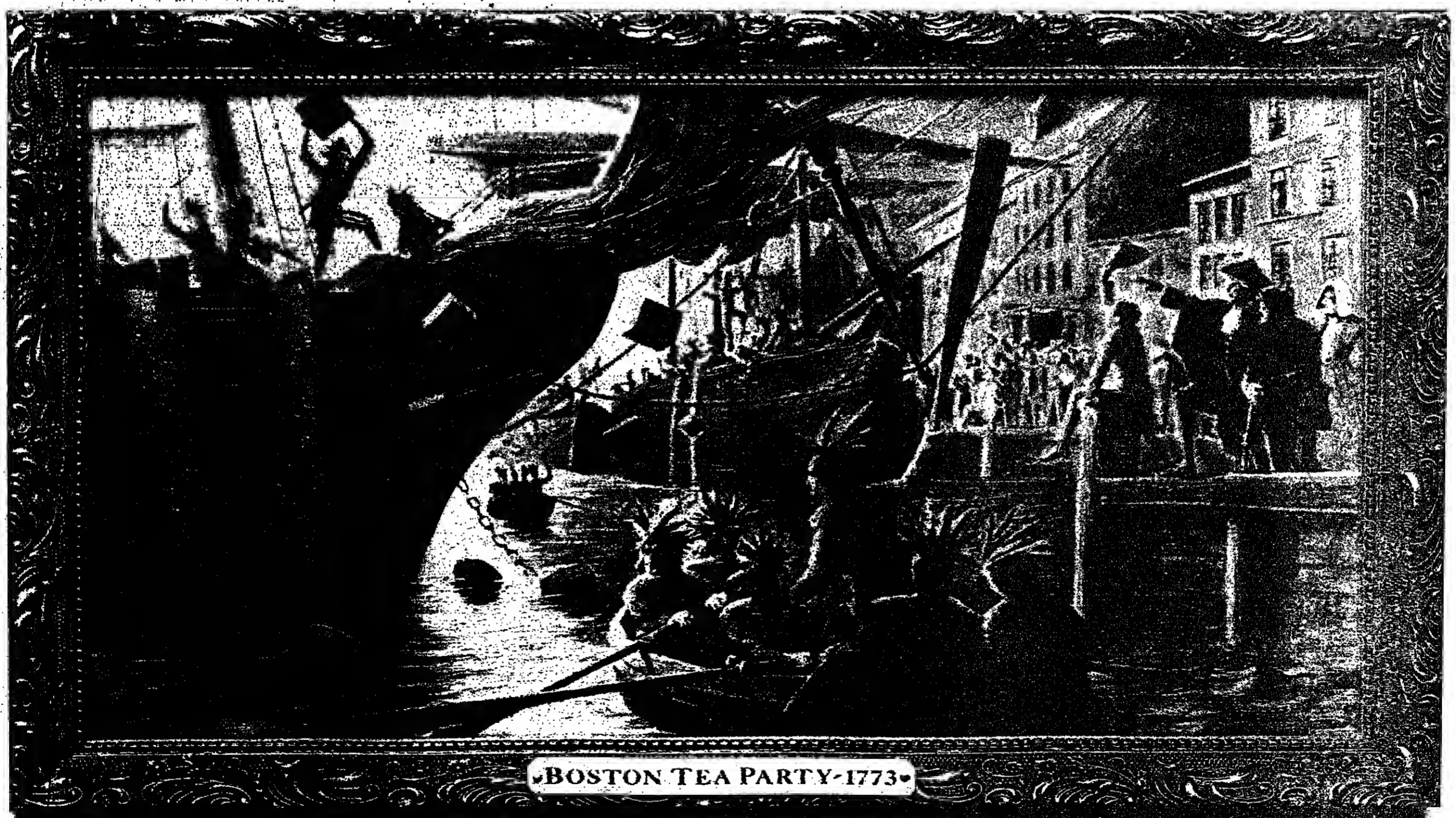
Chicago's banking sector continues to promote local growth, although the city's major bank, First Chicago, could be vulnerable as a takeover target when Illinois opens its borders to full interstate banking next year. Continental Illinois has pursued the opposite tack, and is positioning itself as an international investment bank, having sold its retail accounts to First Chicago.

While Chicago's future role on the world stage is still unclear, its dominant position as a regional centre is undisputed. With more than a quarter of the US population living within 500 miles of downtown Chicago, the city retains an unrivalled lead as a transport hub — O'Hare airport remains the busiest in the world.

Manufacturing in the heartland is undergoing a steady revival on the back of a lower dollar. Much of the heavy industry in the Great Lakes region is operating at full capacity, amid an aggressive export drive. While this has resulted in few new jobs for Chicago, the city is re-living its heyday as a freight centre, absorbing a flow of imports from the west coast and shipping Midwest manufactured goods back again.

At the same time, a flow of foreign capital has reached Chicago, with many British and Japanese firms buying into the area. Japanese capital is widely mooted to be interested in the Sears Tower, and real-estate purchases by Japanese investors have helped sustain the city's commercial building boom.

In its gutsy way, Chicago has pushed itself on to the world stage. But its position there is precarious and hangs very much on the fate of its futures industry. The city is in need of a figurehead to project its image beyond the Midwest and establish its presence as an international city, while tackling some deep problems at home.



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CHICAGO 3

The Japanese presence

Major players hedge T-bonds

THE PAST year has seen an influx of Japanese brokers into Chicago's markets, as Tokyo has liberalised its financial regulations and become the target of a concerted marketing effort launched by the windy city's futures exchanges.

Sager to hedge their phenomenal investments in US Treasury bonds, Japanese investors have welcomed the loosening of restrictions on trading futures. They have further experienced the growth of their own nascent futures market where two stock index futures contracts began trading last year.

Futures and options remain new concepts for Japan's institutional investors, and their potential in these markets is largely unexplored. But with over \$100bn invested in US T-bonds, institutions have huge exposures to hedge.

Indeed, the Chicago Board of Trade's evening trading session, launched two years ago to attract Far East business, is now dominated by Japanese activity in the bond futures pit. The 6pm-to-9pm session trades some 200,000 contracts a month - most of these in Treasury bonds.

Japan's four major brokerage houses have been keen to establish a presence in Chicago, as investors develop an interest in derivative products. Yamaichi, Daiwa and Nikko Securities have all registered as clearing members on both the CBOT and Chicago Mercantile Exchange, where each owns the minimum requirement for clearing membership of six exchange seats.

Nomura has taken a different approach and, although the firm has enough seats to qualify as a clearing member, is looking to acquire established expertise. The firm believes the best way to gain entry to the futures business is by investing in an existing firm.

However, Nomura has been talking to several candidates over the past year and has yet to cut a deal. It faced a setback late last year, when the firm broke off advanced talks with Chicago's GNP Commodities after GNP had received a complaint from the industry's regulatory body, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

The complaint charged the company and several of its employees with trading violations, including fraud.

As part of a similar strategy, Mitsubishi Bank added to its own small futures force in Chicago last month, when it took over Secret, a small clearing firm at the CME. Secret - to be renamed Mitsubishi Futures - is run by a member of the CME board of governors, and adds considerable expertise to the Japanese firm's futures base.

The firms have all been developing their own computer clearing systems, and are expected to move into high-efficiency, low-cost clearing operations. Mr Toshio Mori, chairman of Nikko Securities, admits the firm is striving to be very competitive in attracting Japanese clients, but is yet to solicit much US business.

Chicago's futures exchanges have been diligent in their efforts to woo Japanese business, and both have established their own offices in Tokyo. The CBOT has taken a further step and entered into an agreement with the Tokyo Stock Exchange to develop joint products such as Japanese Yen bond futures.

In addition, both the CBOT and CME plan to list futures contracts on two Japanese stock indices later this year. This is being eagerly awaited by many Chicago traders, as well as Japanese investors, as the contracts will offer them a chance to react to developments in Japan's stock-market in an overseas arena.

These contracts should boost Japanese activity in futures which, although growing, is still small by comparison with European interest. The Japanese firms are also keen to participate in the options market, but are waiting for a further relaxation in Japanese financial regulation covering the use of foreign options before they join the Chicago Board Options Exchange.

All the major firms are strengthening their floor brokerage operations and developing their clearing back-up, as they look set to become a potent force in the windy city.

Deborah Hargreaves

William Hall examines banking patterns in the increasingly affluent metropolitan area

Mergers abate as bankers ponder

FIRST CHICAGO, the city's biggest bank, had its best year ever in 1988, and celebrated it by raising its dividend by 20 per cent.

A few blocks away, at Continental Illinois, the story is much the same. The problems that have haunted Chicago's two biggest banks are now slipping into the past. While they have not yet recovered their former glory, and remain overshadowed by the rapid rise to power of a clutch of new super-regional banks, such as Ohio's Banc One, they are far more confident institutions than they were only a couple of years ago.

It is a similar story among most of the other banks, big and small, in the Chicago metropolitan area. For the big banks, the problems of Third World debt provisions are steadily declining in importance; the middle-market business banks continue to benefit from the recovery in the Midwest economy; and the suburban and community banks are earning above-average returns on the back of the region's increasing affluence.

The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago reports that the return on assets of the banks in the seventh Federal Reserve district (which includes portions of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin and all of Iowa) was 1.13 per cent in the third quarter of 1988 - some 17 basis points higher than a year earlier - and asset quality continued to improve. Non-performing loans, as a percentage of total loans, fell by 29 basis points to 1.33 per cent.

The effects of the drought on the performance of the region's long-suffering agricultural banks was not as severe as was once feared. Meanwhile, the third-quarter loans of the 882 Illinois banks monitored by the Chicago Fed grew by 8.7 per cent, considerably faster than the case in Indiana, Iowa, Michigan or Wisconsin.

The decline in the dollar in the previous three years has boosted the competitiveness of large parts of the local economy. "Having lived with a lot of pain in the early 1980s, we now have a good economic base," says Mr Richard Thomas, First Chicago's president. "A lot of our basic industries suffered from Japanese competition, and they have been transformed."

He reels off a string of names - Caterpillar, John Deere, the Detroit car manufacturer, and Inland Steel - to support his belief in the industrial renaissance now under way in First Chicago's backyard. "We are sitting here in Chicago, one of the most vibrant commercial centres in the US, and at the heart of an area which includes Cleveland, Detroit, St Louis, Indianapolis and Kansas City. These are places which are buoyant."

David Fox, the president of Northern Trust, is equally upbeat about the region's prospects. "Even during our darkest rust-belt days I was always greatly optimistic about Chicago. There have been a lot of spin-offs, and the general business climate in Chicago is good."

While few bankers believe that their bad debts would not rise in a recession, Chicago's increasingly diversified economy means that its banks are unlikely to be as affected as some of their regional competitors in any economic downturn. Equally important, real estate prices have not risen anywhere near as rapidly as in some other parts of the US, so the scope for a sharp fall in asset values is considerably less.

Chicago is the undisputed financial capital of the Midwest, with a population of around 6m. As well as being the headquarters of some of America's best-known corporations, it is home to more than 30,000 firms with annual sales of between \$1m and \$250m. Some suburbs, such as Du Page county, are a magnet for the high-tech industry, and among the fastest growing in the US. It is the sort of market where bankers should be able to earn handsome profits, and many are.

However, the Chicago banking industry remains in a state of considerable flux. The main problem is the outdated local banking laws which, until recently, imposed severe restrictions on local bank expansion. "If it had not been for these restrictions you would probably have already ended up with five large banks which owned everything," says John Snow, a senior bank analyst with Chicago Corporation, a local broker.

Since 1982, when the state of Illinois permitted multi-bank



The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago

holding companies, there have been a significant number of bank mergers within the state. These accelerated after July 1, 1988, when Illinois banks were permitted to acquire or be acquired by banks in Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri and Wisconsin. The final date, which has been ringed in red on every banker's calendar, is December 1, 1990, when national interstate banking takes effect.

This will permit combinations between banks and bank-holding companies in any state, provided the other state has passed legislation granting similar privileges to Illinois banks.

The pace of merger activity in and around Chicago has slowed down lately, as bankers have begun to ponder their next move. The key decision is whether a bank is going to be an acquirer or be acquired, and this is resulting in widely differing business strategies.

Only two big banks in Chicago are capable of playing on the national stage - First Chi-

ago and Continental Illinois. Both face the same problem: their lowly stock-market rating has prevented them from taking part in the regional bank takeover game; while several smaller, but more profitable, out-of-state banks have been able to buy a major position in the Chicago banking market.

These two banks have dominated the Chicago business landscape for many generations, but their performance over the next year or two will dictate whether they can hold on to their leadership position. The years when Chicago was a protected banking market are over, and as Chicago has demonstrated, the attractive banking margins are luring in new competitors.

Over the years, the two big banks have regularly leap-frogged each other in size, but their business strategies are more divergent than ever before. Continental Illinois, under the direction of Mr Tom Theobald, an ex-Citibanker, has changed the direction of

the bank dramatically since he took over.

The retail banking operations, which had only recently been acquired as part of a plan to reduce Continental's unhealthy reliance on volatile wholesale money, have been sold off, and Continental is concentrating on three main businesses - corporate finance, risk management and specialised financial services.

Continental has swallowed its old slogan of the "big bank with the little bank inside", and has replaced it with a new ambition to be the "best business bank in the business". Its goal is to be "a financial intermediary with increased asset liquidity and strengthened pass-through and distribution capacities - in short, to be a resource for our customers on both the origination and distribution sides. Increasingly, we will use our balance sheet as an inventory of products to be traded or sold."

Mr Waite Rawls, a vice chairman who was hired away from New York's Chemical Bank to help Continental's transformation, says that the bank is now concentrating on 2,000 or so corporate customers whose sales range between \$250m and \$50m. Because of Continental's close ties with the Chicago futures exchanges, it has a considerable knowledge of the new and complex risk-management products, and Mr Rawls and his team aim to exploit these strengths. Few banks in the world are following such a narrowly focused strategy.

First Chicago, by contrast, is following a less adventurous route, but Mr Thomas believes it offers better growth opportunities and is less risky. It is hedging its bets by being both a global corporate bank and a super-regional bank - something, incidentally, which Continental's aggressive advertising campaign says does not make sense.

However, First Chicago is unabashed. It is the highest wholesale and corporate bank between the East and West coasts, and at the same time it has built a super-regional bank which now accounts for a third of the group's \$44bn of assets and half of its earnings. If it were standing on its own, this part of First Chicago's business would have a return on equity

of 25 per cent, the highest of any super-regional bank.

"We intend to grow the assets of our super-regional bank more rapidly than in the corporate bank," says Mr Thomas, and the hope is that the better quality of First Chicago's earnings will begin to be reflected in its stock price. The group's acquisition of American National Bank, which serves the Chicago middle market businesses, has worked out well, and the group's consumer banking operation is now more than twice as big as the nearest competitor. "We are picking up \$7 out of every \$10 in Du Page county," says Mr Thomas with a smile.

The gap in size between these two banks and the competition is considerable. Harris Bank has already been acquired, and the next biggest bank, the \$8bn Northern Trust, is less than a third the size of Continental. It is one of the most attractive banks in Chicago, and would almost certainly have attracted a predator were it not for the substantial holding of the Smith family and the bank's own employees, which makes it effectively takeover-proof.

It is one of only a handful of specialist trust banks in the US (State Street and US Trust are other examples), and over 50 per cent of its revenues come from the trust operations which have been expanded into Florida, California and Arizona. It has carved out a number of special niches for itself, such as its highly successful global custodian business, and it is one of the most profitable banks in downtown Chicago.

After Northern Trust, there is another large gap. La Salle, the next biggest, has already been taken over, and Exchange Bancorp, which is about the third of the size of Northern Trust, is one of several medium sized banks that seem to be obvious targets when the barriers to interstate banking drop at the end of next year.

Along with groups such as First Illinois and First Midwest, the shares of Exchange are standing at a handsome premium to the market, which suggests that this thought has not been lost on the investors on La Salle Street.

When it comes to investing in Chicago bank stocks, the motto is: the smaller, the more beautiful, for the time being.

RISK IS EVERYWHERE.



Paul Hunter, "Trading Floor" graphic/pencil on paper, 1987. From the Refco Collection.

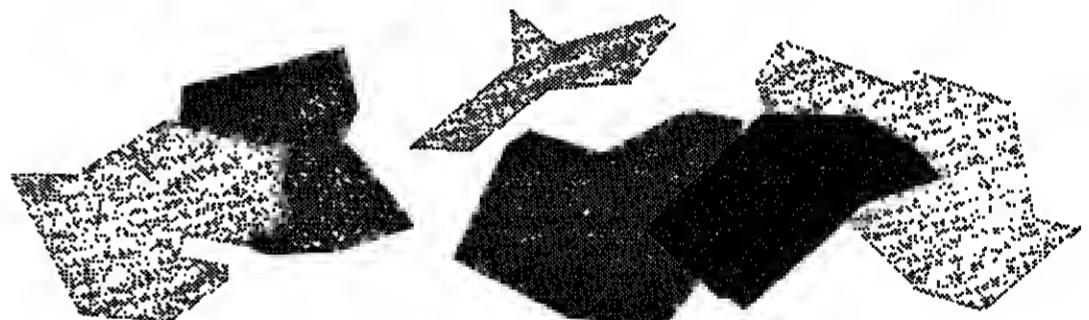
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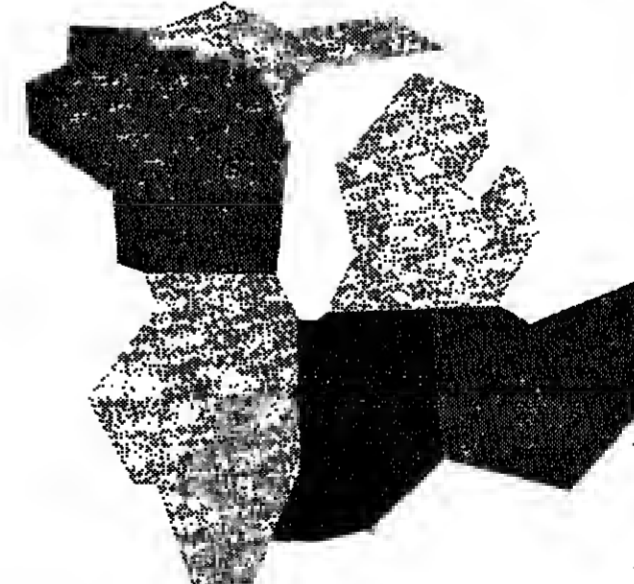
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CHICAGO 5

James Abbott on the economic magnetism of O'Hare Airport

The other wealth-generator

TRAVELLERS at Chicago's O'Hare airport eat 2.6m frankfurters a year. The new Terminal 1 has a ticketing pavilion as large as two American football fields. The baggage-handling facility can handle 490 bags a minute.

Such are the more arcane statistics of an airport that can only be described in superlatives. Chicago is used to boasting that it operates the busiest airport in the world. O'Hare field laid claim to this title in 1961, even before its terminal buildings had been dedicated, and true Chicagoans are convinced there has been no real challenge to that claim.

There was some dispute a couple of years ago: Atlanta's Hartsfield airport claimed the honour, saying that it ran more flights than O'Hare in 1987; but Chicago asserted superiority as it had more passengers. Last year O'Hare was ahead again on both counts, with over 800,000 flight operations, compared with Atlanta's 776,000, and over 26m departing passengers compared with fewer than 23m at Hartsfield.

O'Hare plays host to over 50 airlines, and the country's two largest US, United and American, operate hub-and-spoke systems based on the airport.

Unrivalled air services from points all over the country have meant that Chicago is favoured as a conference centre, and hotels have sprouted all round the airport perimeter. Other businesses that benefit from good air links for passengers or cargo have located near the airport. For the past quarter-century, the leading edge of economic growth in the Chicago area has been in concentric waves, lapping out to the north and west of the airport.

Corporate headquarters, shopping malls and residential districts have sprung up round the airport — to the extent that Stephen Wolf, president of United Airlines, says O'Hare is now "a strong contender with the Loop (the historic downtown district) for the title 'Heart of Chicagoland'".

Others go even further. "The most important economic generator in Chicago is not the financial industry, and it is not McCormick Place (the downtown conference centre) — it's the airport," argues Paul Karas, the former Commissioner of the City of Chicago's



The 10-year programme's most dramatic development so far is United Airlines' new Terminal 1

Department of Public Works, who now heads the \$4.2bn redevelopment plan at New York's Kennedy airport. "Without a viable airport, you do not have a viable regional economy — it's as simple as that."

The City of Chicago, O'Hare's owner, is mindful of the goose laying the golden egg on its north-western borders. The airport provides jobs for 185,000 people and pumps over \$9bn annually into the regional economy. And this huge economic engine comes gratis to the city: local tax payments and landing fees paid by airlines total close to \$200m each year, and Chicago's airport cost taxpayers nothing.

The city has sought to keep O'Hare healthy by promoting expansion. The airport is part-way through a \$1.9bn, 10-year development programme that was initiated in 1983, and plans are being formulated for a similar follow-on programme.

The programme's most dramatic development so far is United Airlines' new Terminal 1, the "Terminal for Tomorrow". With a light and airy structure, architect Helmut Jahn set a standard in Terminal 1 for other airports to follow. The terminal building is linked to a concourse in the centre of the airfield by an underground walkway, which is enhanced by the world's largest neon sculpture, designed by Michael Hayden.

The standard of Jahn's work at O'Hare has not gone unnoticed. American Airlines has commissioned the architect to

design the showpiece \$500m terminal it plans to build at Kennedy airport, in New York. At the design stage at O'Hare is a new international terminal, Terminal 5, which should be ready for use early in the next decade.

Matra, the French company which built the world's first unmanned rapid transit system in Lille, is building a similar system at O'Hare to ease movement around the airport. Come 1992, sleek mini-trains will shuttle between the terminals and the rental car sites and remote parking areas at speeds up to 45mph. (The airport is already linked to downtown by conventional rapid transit trains, which make the trip to the Loop in 35 minutes).

By the time the 10-year development plan is complete in 1993, the modernised O'Hare is expected to contribute more than \$10bn a year to the local economy, and by then employment attributable to O'Hare will have risen to more than 230,000 jobs.

Nevertheless some storm clouds hang over the airport. Some observers do not think it is growing fast enough to maintain its lead. "Phase II of the development plan [not due to start until 1993] should be under way now," comments Paul Karas, the former city commissioner. He argues that other cities, seeing what a goldmine a successful airport has been for Chicago, will seize the initiative. Plans are afoot for expansion in Dallas, for instance, and Denver is toying

with the idea of a completely new airport to capture lucrative conference business.

O'Hare has been slipping on the freight side as well. Karas argues. Leading air-freight companies have recently established hub operations in Ohio, Indiana and Tennessee, but none chose Chicago. O'Hare must find more room for cargo, Karas warns, as cargo is "the key to the off-airport economy".

Another problem of immediate concern is safety. The sky over O'Hare is now so crowded that air-traffic controllers are under more pressure there than almost anywhere else, and steps were taken last year to limit the number of take-offs in peak periods to improve safety margins. These pressures will ease when a long overdue modernisation of the national air traffic-control system gets under way, but there are doubts about the ability of O'Hare to go on growing.

Some observers, including President Bush's new Secretary of Transportation, Samuel Skinner, reckon that O'Hare and its smaller brother, Midway airport, are unlikely to have the ability to handle all Chicago's air traffic in the next century and are promoting the idea of a third Chicago airport.

The city, which fears that any new airport would have to be built outside the city limits, is joining forces with the airlines, which have invested heavily in the existing airports, in resisting this idea.

A visitor's guide

Music, history and festivals

WINTER is cold and snowy, summer hot and humid, with little respite between. The city makes the most of its warm weather to stage an array of outdoor festivals. It is also rich in culture, from its French Impressionists at the Art Institute to one of the finest symphony orchestras in the world, and a history of modern architecture can be gleaned from just wandering the streets.

HOTELS

The Drake (tel 787 2200) and the Mayfair Regent (787 8500) reign supreme among Chicago's hotels, with their view of Lake Michigan and location at the head of the quality shopping street. Rates start at \$160 to \$185 a night at both, which are a short taxi-ride from the main Loop business district. The Park Hyatt (282 2222), also on Michigan Avenue, stresses its personal service and trades on its "European" atmosphere. Just north of the Loop, one of the city's newer hotels, the Nikko (744 1900) offers Japanese as well as American-style rooms. Single-room rates start at \$185 a night. In the centre of the downtown Loop, the huge Palmer House (728 7500) offers rooms starting at \$110, and the Fairmont, a new modern hotel (565 8000) has weekday rates starting at \$160 a night.

RESTAURANTS

Colourful restaurants are to be found in ethnic neighbourhoods, such as the Italian cafes on Taylor Street and the Greek tavernas in Greektown, on South Halsted Street. But the Loop has some distinctive eating places of

its own. Prairie (tel 663 1143) is one of the city's most popular new restaurants, and is located just south of the Loop in the yuppie, restored Printer's Row area. The restaurant sticks to its Midwest traditions: the interior is decorated in Frank Lloyd Wright themes, and the menu offers such hearty fare as grilled buffalo steak. For midwestern-style fast food that is not shy of its cholesterol count, Ed Debevic's (664 1707) has attracted a cult following. At 640 N Wells Street, the burger joint is modelled on a 1950s diner, serving burgers, meatloaf and hot dogs. The city's famous deep-pan pizza can be sampled at Gino's East Pizzeria (943 1124) just off Michigan Avenue at 160 E Superior. Shaw's Crab House (527 2722) with its wide range of seafood and San Francisco-style bar, and the Berghoff (427 3170) with its auld German fare, are popular meeting places for business lunches.

ENTERTAINMENT

Chicago has a wide range of theatres, including a number of "alternative" venues where the standard can vary. The Goodman Theatre (tel 443 3800) in the Loop usually offers some serious drama. Second City is Chicago's established venue for comedy and satire, usually taking a shot at current political issues. The city is famed for its blues clubs which feature a range of local talent. One of the closest to the Loop is Blue Chicago (642 6207) on State Street. Farther north, in Chicago's Lincoln Park area,



Sir Georg Solti: tickets can be scarce

Kingston Mines (477 4646) and Blues (582 1012) face each other across N Halsted Street.

The Chicago Symphony (435 8122) is extremely popular, and tickets are often hard to come by, particularly as Sir Georg Solti nears retirement. Every year during August, the city hosts a classical musical festival at Ravinia, a northern suburb. Chicago is a living lesson in modern architecture, and the city's Arch-Center (782 1776) runs daily walking tours with a guide. The Art Institute stages a range of exhibitions, and the Field Museum of Natural History has just opened the largest Egyptian exhibit outside Cairo.

SPORT

The renowned Chicago Bears football team and their colourful coach, Mike Ditka, are a city institution and attract a huge crowd at their cavernous Soldier Field stadium. The city's two baseball teams have not built such a record of success, but still have a

large following in the city. The Chicago Cubs play on the north side at Wrigley Field, which last year gained the distinction of becoming the last baseball stadium in the US to install lighting for night games. The White Sox are in the process of constructing a new stadium on the south side.

TRANSPORT

Driving in Chicago is made easy by a network of freeways that dissect the city and bind the suburbs with the Loop. Downtown taxis are cheap end numerous, but a trip to the sprawling suburbs demands a car. A taxi from O'Hare airport to the city centre takes about 30 minutes if the traffic is not bad — which it frequently is — and costs around \$30. A cheaper way is by the metro system of elevated trains, abbreviated to the "El", which provides a link between the airport and the Loop. The El costs a flat rate of \$1, as do downtown buses.

Deborah Hargreaves

Double-deck freight

Continued from page 4

While 150,000 passengers a day file through its gates, O'Hare is also a major air-freight centre. Handling over 300,000 tons of freight each year, O'Hare ranks alongside Los Angeles as

a cargo centre. Only Memphis, hub in the Federal Express air-freight centre, handles decisively more. There are worries, though, that unless more space can be found at O'Hare for cargo, Chicago's relative importance in this area will

slip.

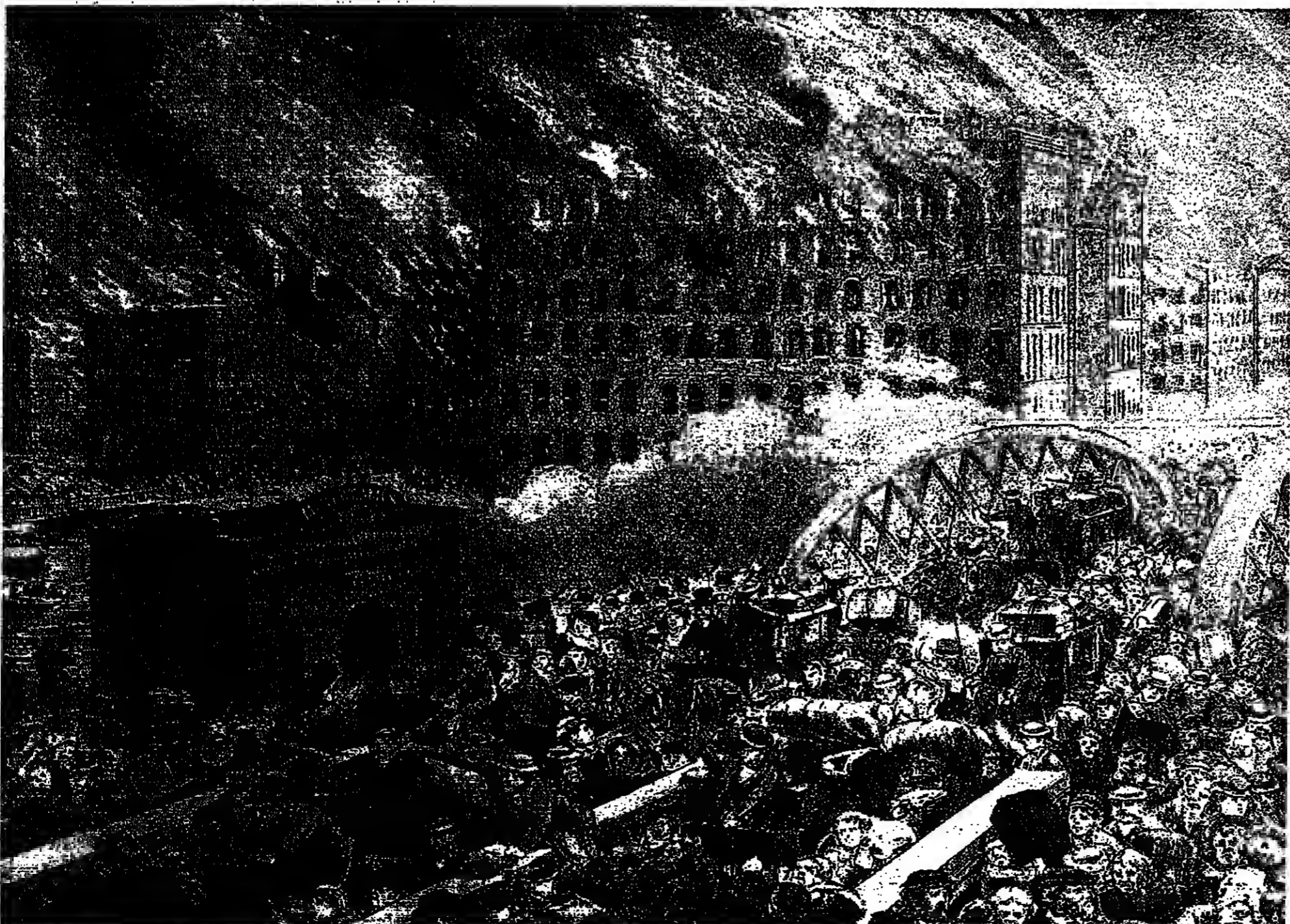
In waterborne freight Chicago has already seen its role as a cargo centre decline. The tortuous passage of the St Lawrence Seaway and the Great Lakes takes too long for time-sensitive freight, and the Seaway, built in the 1950s, is too small for today's large ships.

A modest amount of grain

goes out through the Lakes, and some British steel is imported through the Illinois International Port at Lake Calumet, on Chicago's south side. The port also sends bagged US-aid grain for the Third World in barges down the Illinois river and the Mississippi to New Orleans.

James Abbott

October 8, 1871: the brightest day in the history of Chicago's architecture.



In America, there exists one of the greatest architectural museums in the world.

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The buildings surrounding Grant Park alone constitute the largest, oldest and architecturally richest cultural center in America—the Art Institute (1893), Orchestra Hall (1904), the Field Museum (1920), the Shedd Aquarium (1929) and the Adler Planetarium (1930).

Indeed, the city itself is a living laboratory of the masters: Sullivan, Wright, Van der Rohe and others.

It is their energy and bravado that inspires Chicagoans to reach a little higher. To present to the world its tallest building (Sears Tower), its busiest airport (O'Hare International), and appropriately, its largest architectural firm (Skidmore, Owings and Merrill).

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AUTHORISED UNIT TRUSTS

Table listing various unit trusts such as Abbey Unit Trust, Abstract Management Ltd, and others, including their names and brief descriptions.

Table listing unit trusts with columns for Name, Unit Price, and other financial details.

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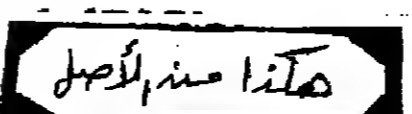
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GUIDE TO UNIT TRUST PRICING. This section provides detailed information on how unit trust prices are calculated, including the impact of expenses, taxes, and the timing of payments. It explains the difference between net and gross prices and how they are derived from the underlying assets.



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Main table containing unit trust information with columns for company name, unit price, and other financial details. Includes sections for 'OTHER UK UNIT TRUSTS' and 'INSURANCES'.

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Continued on next page

FT UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

For Current Unit Trust Prices on any telephone ring direct 0333 444 444 or five days before (listed below). Calls charged at 56p per minute peak and 25p off peak, inc VAT

Main table containing unit trust information with columns for Name, Price, Yield, and other financial metrics. Includes sub-sections like 'MANAGEMENT SERVICES', 'OFFSHORE AND OVERSEAS', and 'GUERNEY (SIB RECOGNISED)'.

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FT UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

LONDON SHARE SERVICE

Table of FT Unit Trust Information Service listing various unit trusts, their managers, and performance metrics.

Table of London Share Service listing British Funds, American Funds, and other investment vehicles with their respective prices and yields.

Table of Money Market Trust Funds listing various money market funds and their performance details.

LONDON SHARE SERVICE

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CANADIANS

Table of Canadian share prices including companies like WABIN, WABIN, WABIN, etc.

BANKS, HP & LEASING

Table of share prices for banks and hire purchase/leasing companies.

HIRE PURCHASE, LEASING, ETC.

Table of share prices for hire purchase and leasing companies.

BEERS, WINES & SPIRITS

Table of share prices for beer, wine, and spirit companies.

BUILDING, TIMBER, ROADS

Table of share prices for building, timber, and roads companies.

BUILDING, TIMBER, ROADS - Contd

Continuation of Building, Timber, Roads share prices.

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

Table of share prices for chemical and plastic companies.

DRAPERY AND STORES

Table of share prices for drapery and store companies.

BUILDING, TIMBER, ROADS

Table of share prices for building, timber, and roads companies.

ELECTRICALS

Table of share prices for electrical companies.

ENGINEERING - Contd

Continuation of Engineering share prices.

ENGINEERING

Table of share prices for engineering companies.

ENGINEERING - Contd

Continuation of Engineering share prices.

FOOD, GROCERIES, ETC

Table of share prices for food, grocery, and other companies.

HOTELS AND CATERERS

Table of share prices for hotels and caterers.

INDUSTRIALS (Miscel.)

Table of share prices for miscellaneous industrial companies.

INDUSTRIALS (Miscel.) - Contd

Continuation of Industrial (Miscel.) share prices.

INDUSTRIALS (Miscel.) - Contd

Continuation of Industrial (Miscel.) share prices.

INDUSTRIALS (Miscel.) - Contd

Continuation of Industrial (Miscel.) share prices.

INSURANCES

Table of share prices for insurance companies.

LEISURE

Table of share prices for leisure companies.

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LONDON SHARE SERVICE

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LEISURE - Cont'd. Table listing various leisure companies such as British Airways, British Airways PLC, and others with their respective share prices and market data.

PROPERTY. Table listing property-related companies and their share prices.

TEXTILES - Cont'd. Table listing textile companies and their share prices.

TOBACCO. Table listing tobacco companies and their share prices.

TRUSTS, FINANCE, LAND - Cont'd. Table listing trusts, finance, and land companies and their share prices.

OIL AND GAS - Cont'd. Table listing oil and gas companies and their share prices.

MINES - Cont'd. Table listing mining companies and their share prices.

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT TRADES. Table listing motor and aircraft trade companies and their share prices.

Commercial Vehicles. Table listing commercial vehicle companies and their share prices.

Investment Trusts. Table listing investment trusts and their share prices.

Finance, Land, etc. Table listing finance, land, and other companies and their share prices.

OVERSEAS TRADERS. Table listing overseas trading companies and their share prices.

Miscellaneous. Table listing miscellaneous companies and their share prices.

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS. Table listing newspaper and publishing companies and their share prices.

Shipping. Table listing shipping companies and their share prices.

Shoes and Leather. Table listing shoes and leather companies and their share prices.

OIL AND GAS. Table listing oil and gas companies and their share prices.

PLANTATIONS. Table listing plantation companies and their share prices.

THIRD MARKET. Table listing third market companies and their share prices.

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERTISING. Table listing paper, printing, and advertising companies and their share prices.

South Africans. Table listing South African companies and their share prices.

Textiles. Table listing textile companies and their share prices.

Overseas Traders. Table listing overseas trading companies and their share prices.

Central African. Table listing Central African companies and their share prices.

Regional & Irish Stocks. Table listing regional and Irish stocks and their share prices.

Traditional Options. Table listing traditional options and their prices.

Industrial. Table listing industrial companies and their share prices.

Property. Table listing property companies and their share prices.

Mines. Table listing mining companies and their share prices.

Australian. Table listing Australian companies and their share prices.

Oil. Table listing oil companies and their share prices.

Notes and footnotes at the bottom of the page, including information about stock exchange listings and data sources.

CURRENCIES, MONEY AND CAPITAL MARKETS

CURRENCIES AND MONEY REVIEW

Swiss may follow the Danish path

THE SWISS have a lot to learn from the Danes, according to Mr Christopher Tinker, currency analyst at UBS Phillips and Drew, Switzerland and Denmark have one obvious thing in common at present: they have weak currencies, amid a general perception that their interest rates are too low to be competitive.

But the attitude of the monetary authorities in the two countries is rather different. Switzerland shows no sign of wishing to come to terms with this problem, and the belief in the market is that the Swiss franc will continue to weaken.

francs. Morgan Grenfell believes the D-Mark is set to reach 0.90 francs within the next three months, but this may prove a conservative prediction unless Switzerland does something about the interest rate relationship between Zurich and Frankfurt.

liberal capital controls within the European Community. The freer movement of capital in general means investors are no longer prepared to accept traditionally low Swiss interest rates, a withholding tax on unearned income as high as 35 per cent and now a depreciating currency.

C IN NEW YORK

Table with columns for Date, Open, Previous, and various market indicators like S&P 500, Dow Jones, etc.

CURRENCY RATES

Table showing currency rates for various countries including Sterling, Euro, and others.

CURRENCY MOVEMENTS

Table showing percentage changes in currency values for various regions.

OTHER CURRENCIES

Table showing rates for other major currencies like the Japanese Yen, Australian Dollar, etc.

Colin Millham

EURO-CURRENCY INTEREST RATES

Table showing interest rates for various Euro-currency deposits and loans.

POUND SPOT-FORWARD AGAINST THE POUND

Table showing spot and forward rates for the Pound against the Pound.

DOLLAR SPOT-FORWARD AGAINST THE DOLLAR

Table showing spot and forward rates for the Dollar against the Dollar.

MONEY RATES

Table showing Treasury Bills and Bonds rates.

EXCHANGE CROSS RATES

Table showing cross rates between various currencies.

LONDON MONEY RATES

Table showing money rates in London.

FT LONDON INTERBANK FIXING

Table showing interbank fixing rates for various currencies.

BANK OF ENGLAND TREASURY BILL TENDER

Table showing Treasury Bill tender details.

WEEKLY CHANGE IN WORLD INTEREST RATES

Table showing weekly changes in interest rates worldwide.

NEW YORK

Table showing New York market data.

FIXED INTEREST STOCKS

Table showing fixed interest stocks.

RIGHTS OFFERS

Table showing rights offers.

BANKING & FINANCE IN THE NETHERLANDS

The Financial Times proposes to publish this survey on: 1st June 1989. For a full editorial synopsis and advertisement details, please contact: Richard Willis on Amsterdam (20) 225668.

NOTICE OF REDEMPTION

QUEENSLAND COAL FINANCE LIMITED (the "Company") U.S. \$400,000,000 Guaranteed Floating Rate Notes Due May 1989 (the "Notes").

FT MANAGEMENT REPORTS

01 799 2002 Free catalogue. Information is Power. FT Management Reports.

FT-ACTUARIES WORLD INDICES

Jointly compiled by The Financial Times Limited, Goldman, Sachs & Co., and County NatWest/Wood Mackenzie in conjunction with the Institute of Actuaries and the Faculty of Actuaries

Large table showing FT-Actuaries World Indices for various countries and regions, including Australia, Canada, Europe, etc.

EUROPEAN OPTIONS EXCHANGE

Table showing European options exchange data for various series.

BASE LENDING RATES

Table showing base lending rates for various banks and currencies.

LONDON RECENT ISSUES

Table showing London recent issues for various companies.

JOTTER PAD

Table with columns for Name, Address, and other contact information.

CROSSWORD

No.695 Set by TANTALUS. A crossword puzzle grid.

INFORMATION IS POWER

FT Management Reports. 01 799 2002 Free catalogue.

INFORMATION IS POWER

FT Management Reports. 01 799 2002 Free catalogue.

ACROSS

- 1 and 5 Across cash clerk out to find novelist (7)
2 College officer gets coach (5)
3 American school dance by the sea? (9)
4 Lay down rules before writing (6)
5 150 Leave Essex town for London district (5)
6 Card game hush (5)
7 My notes it turns out provide evidence (9)
8 Sturdy route to large hall (9)
9 Starts raven off on short thick perch (5)
10 To moth to India land (5)
11 Met Sherpa changing into heavy coat (9)
12 Scientist recollects it goes cold without density (9)
13 Debate in bar - guess who's there? (9)
14 Beat short aristocrat to geometric line (7)
15 Drive into section of wall (7)
16 One who observes old periodical (9)
17 Wild Omaha pig follows duck eating raw food (9)
18 Call for a short prayer (7)
19 Settled up with, someone creating a storm (7)
20 Cut round brick of bush and find pickle (5)
21 Particular aspect (5)
22 Domain for genuine Frenchman (5)
23 Member of British Merchant Banking & Securities House
24 Association - deposit now 5.5%
25 Interest rates 12.1% Mortgage rate 13.625% - 14.00%



Handwritten note: "Just in time"

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Table of stock market data for Australia, France, Germany, Italy, and Sweden. Columns include country, date, and price changes for various indices and stocks.

Table of stock market data for Japan. Columns include date, price, and price change for various Japanese stocks and indices.

Table of stock market data for Canada. Columns include date, price, and price change for various Canadian stocks and indices.

Table of stock market data for New York. Columns include date, price, and price change for various US stocks and indices.

Table of stock market data for Tokyo. Columns include date, price, and price change for various Japanese stocks and indices.

Table of stock market data for South Africa. Columns include date, price, and price change for various South African stocks and indices.

Advertisement for 'Have your F.T. hand delivered in Germany'. Includes text about the Financial Times newspaper and contact information for Frankfurt 0130-5351.

4pm prices April 7

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE COMPOSITE PRICES

Main table containing stock prices for various companies, including columns for stock symbols, prices, and volume.

Advertisement for Samsung Electronics featuring a video cassette recorder and the text 'Video precision. Video excellence... Video Audio Home Appliances SAMSUNG Electronics'.

NYSE COMPOSITE PRICES

OVER-THE-COUNTER

Nasdaq national market, 4pm prices April 7

Handwritten note: 'Noil no litp'

Main table of NYSE Composite Prices with columns for stock symbols, prices, and changes.

Main table of Over-the-Counter prices with columns for stock symbols, prices, and changes.

Notes and footnotes regarding the data, including 'Notes figures are unofficial' and 'Yearly highs and lows reflect the previous 52 weeks'.

AMEX COMPOSITE PRICES

4pm prices April 7

Table of AMEX Composite Prices with columns for stock symbols, prices, and changes.

Table of AMEX Composite Prices (continued) with columns for stock symbols, prices, and changes.

Advertisement for 'Have your F.I. hand delivered' with contact information for Stockholm or Gothenburg.

